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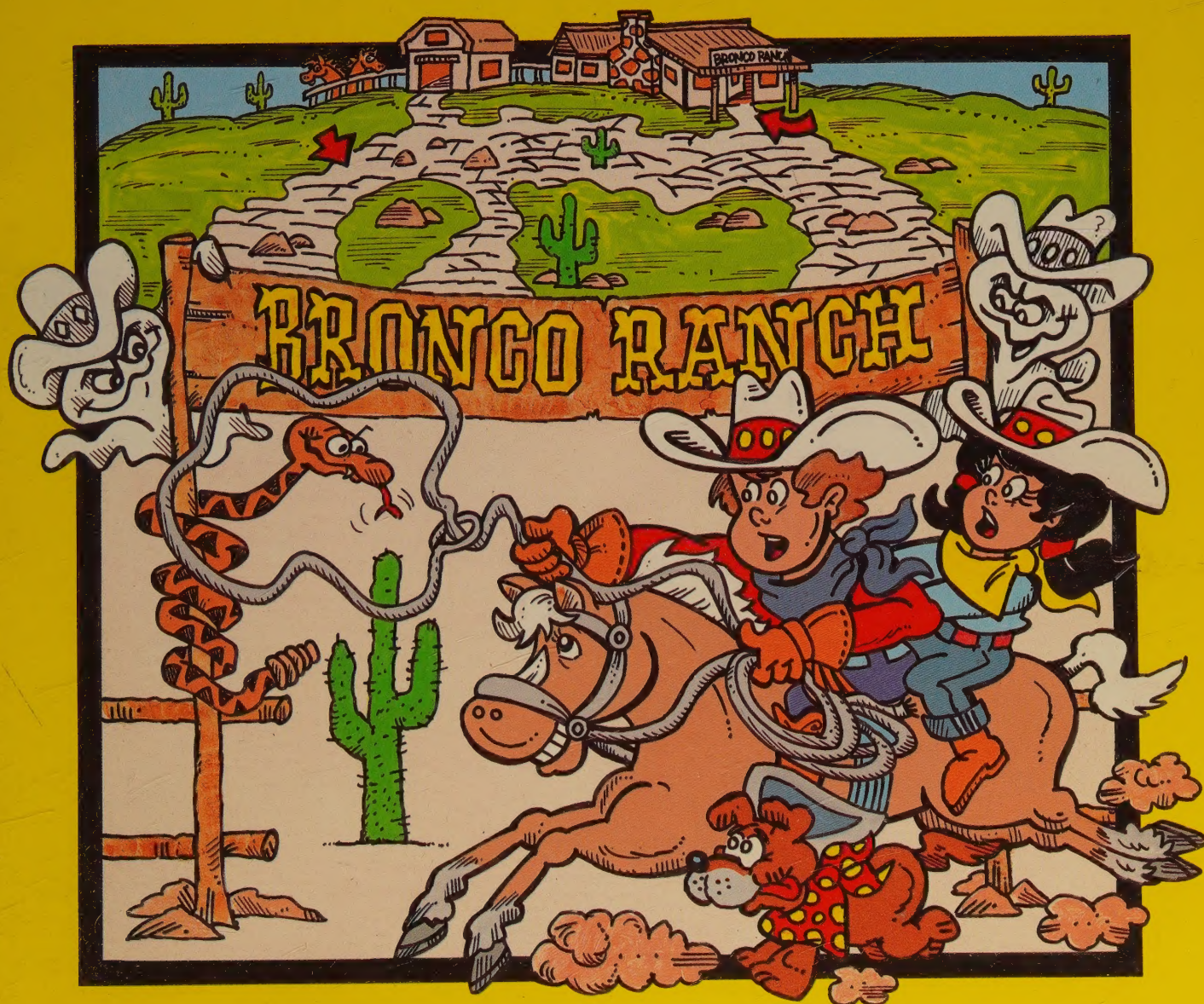
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MAZING

MAZE

ADVENTURES

THE HAUNTED BRONCO RANCH



A Story-Activity Book

AMAZING
MAZE
ADVENTURES

**THE HAUNTED
BRONCO RANCH**

A Story-Activity Book

Written by Florence Bernard

Illustrated by Jack White

PRICE STERN SLOAN
Los Angeles

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"Hooray!" shouted Billy and Katie when their dad said the whole family was going to a dude ranch for a week.

Then Katie asked, "But what about our four-legged member of the family?"

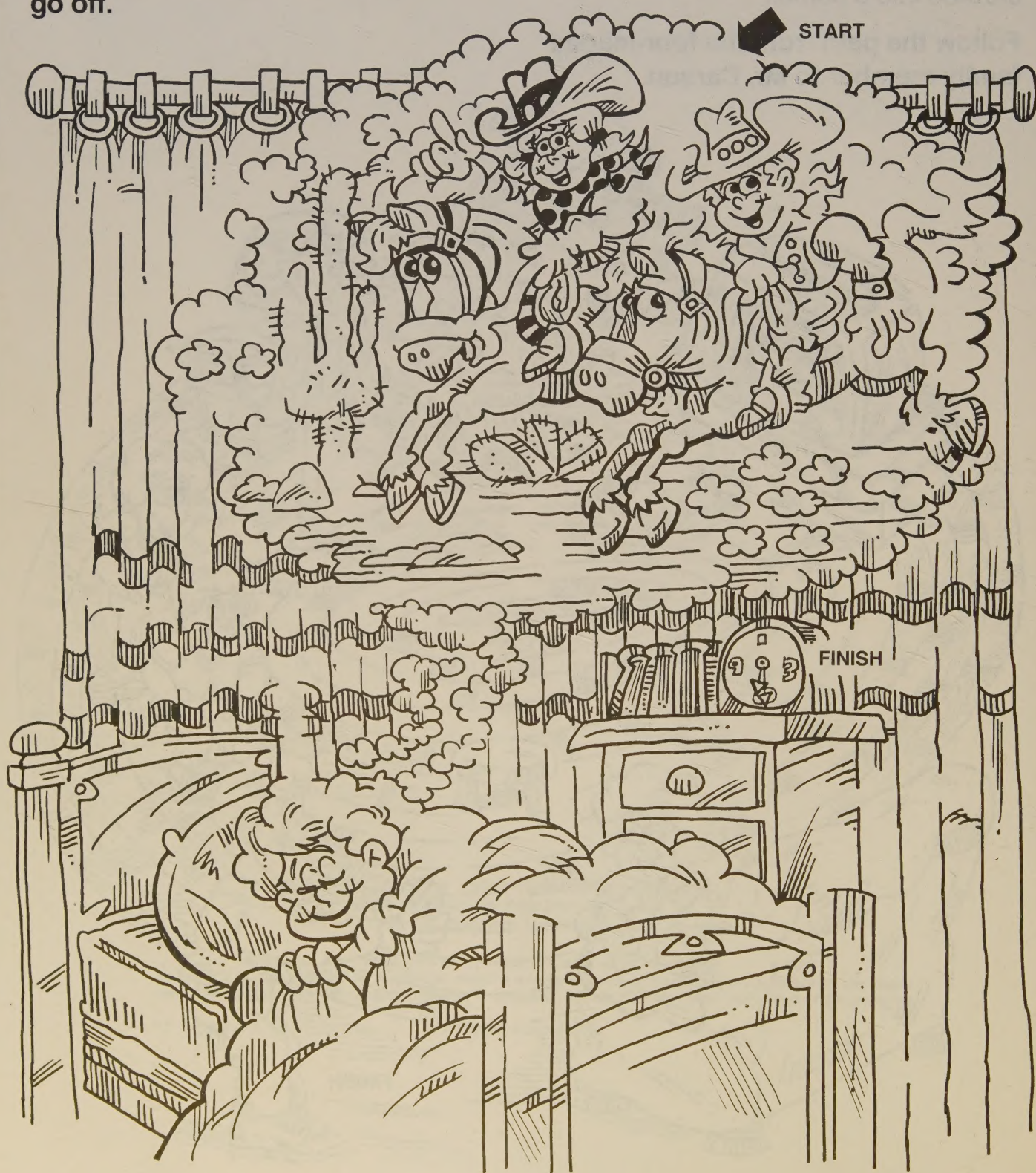
"I did say the *whole* family, didn't I?" said Mr. Carson, winking at Jester, who had crawled into a corner.

Follow the path from the four-legged family member to Mr. Carson.



Before the Carsons knew it, the week had flown by and their trip to the dude ranch was the next day. Billy couldn't sleep that night. And when he finally did fall asleep, he had some wild dreams about what his western adventure would be like.

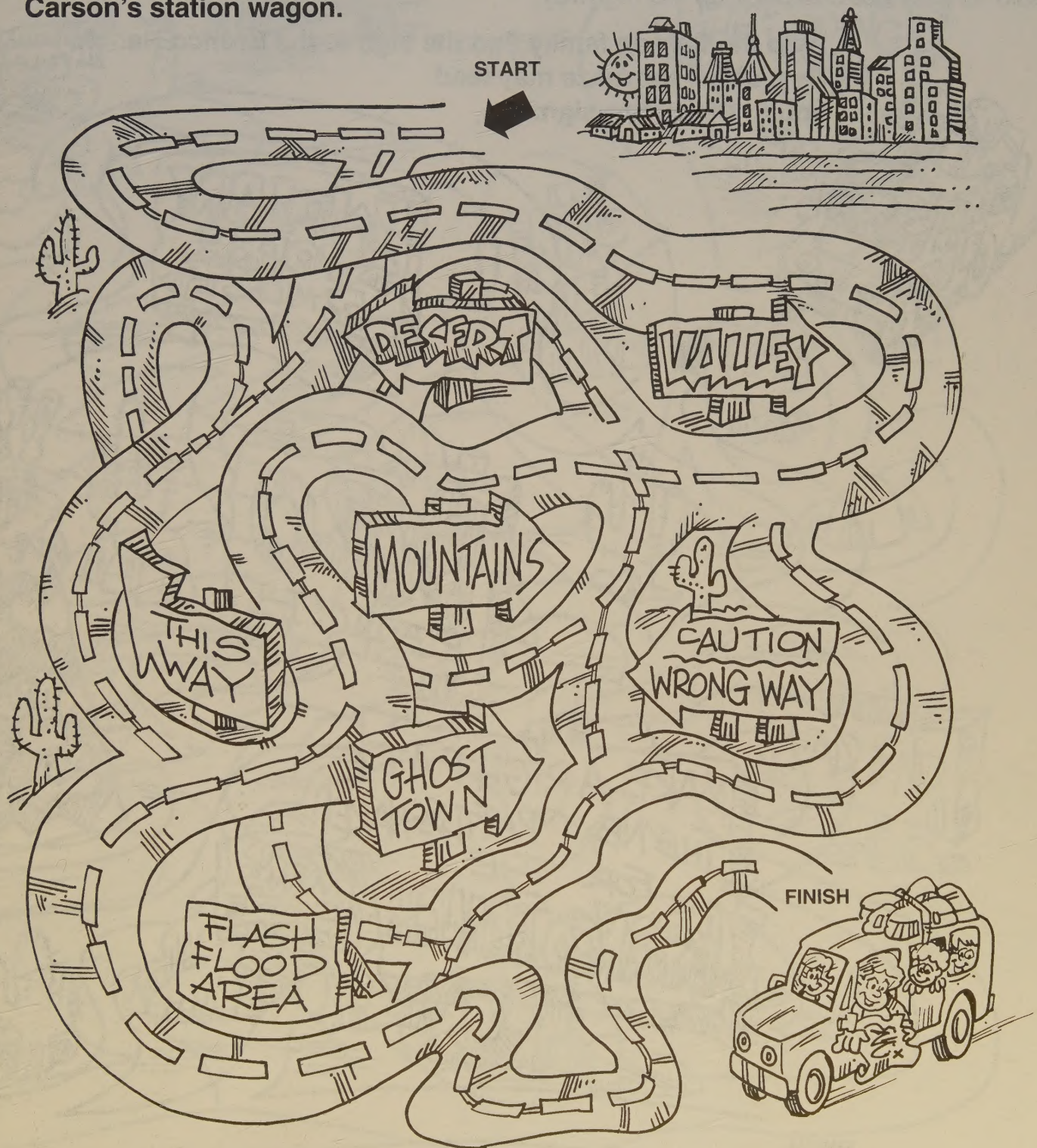
Follow the maze through Billy's dream to his alarm clock, which is about to go off.



The next morning the Carsons were on their way to the ranch. Soon, all they saw around them were cacti and sand.

"Hmmm," Billy's father said. "The map the ranch sent me says we should have seen a sign for the Bronco Ranch a few miles ago. We must have missed it."

Follow the maze from the city to the Carson's station wagon.

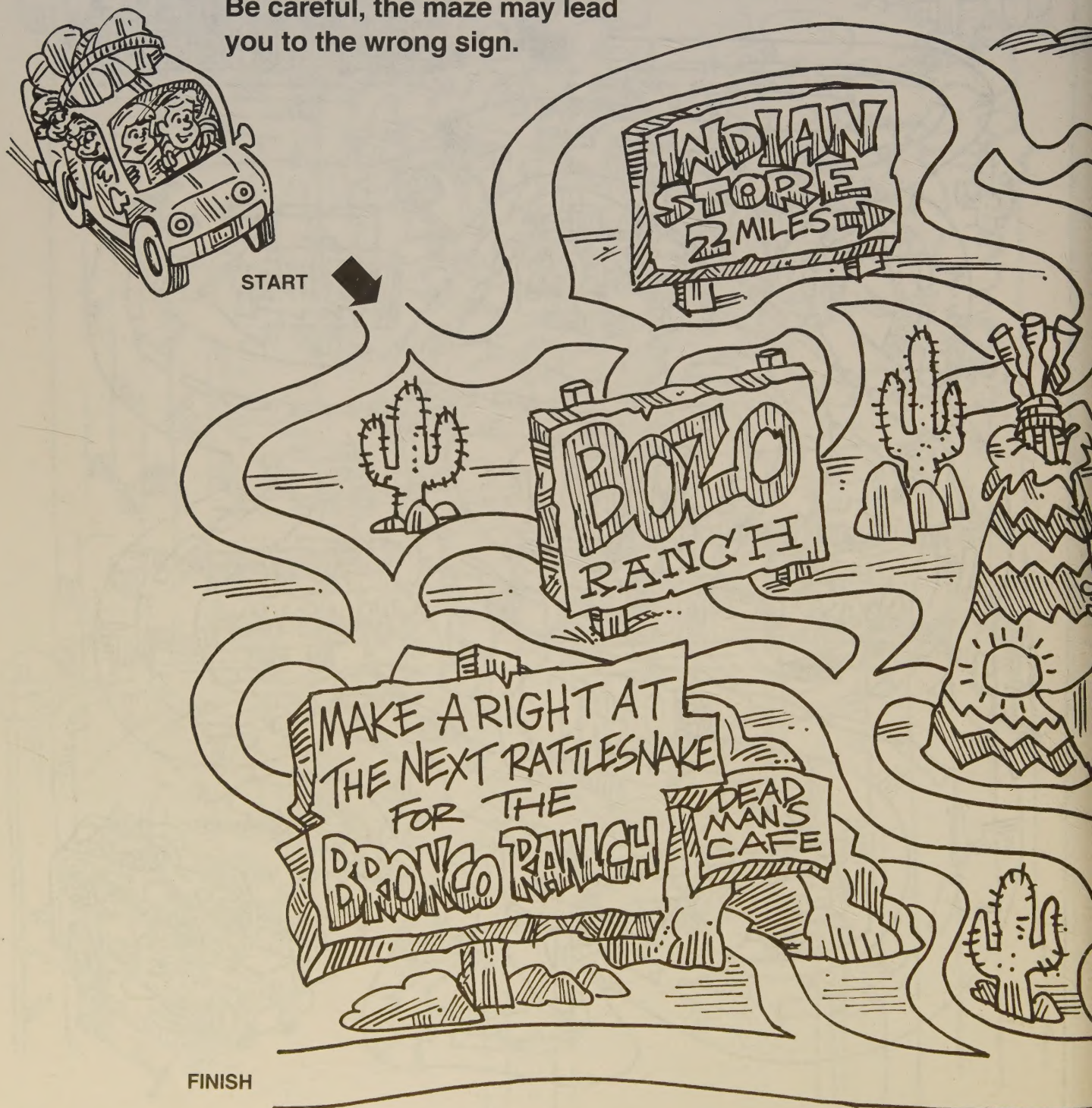


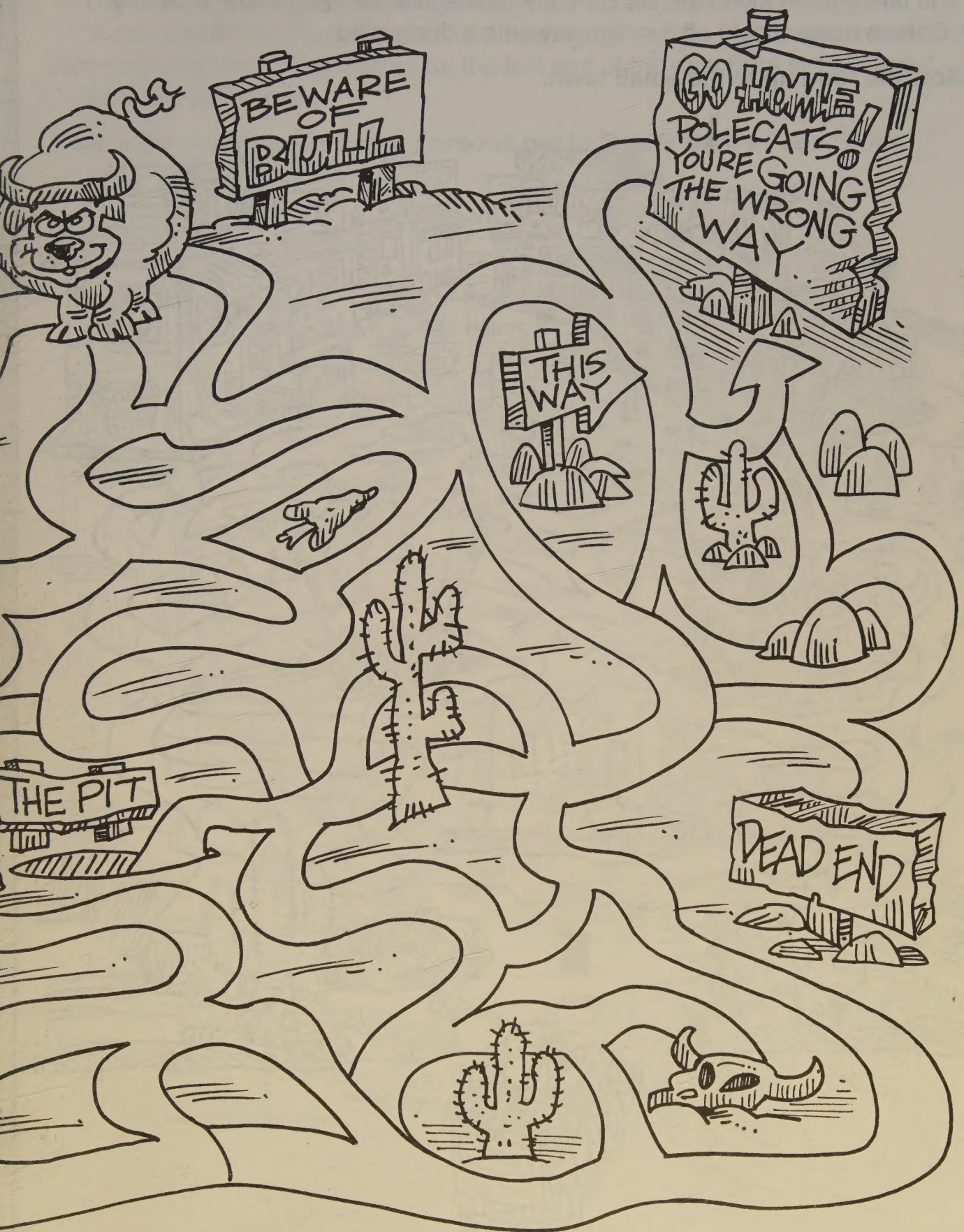
"You know, they've nicknamed this place the *Haunted* Bronco Ranch," Mr. Carson said to his family.

Mrs. Carson gave her husband a playful slap. "That's just a silly advertisement, right?" But Billy's father just grinned as he turned the car around in a big U-turn.

"Now everyone look out for a sign that says something about a rattlesnake," he said as they headed back up the highway.

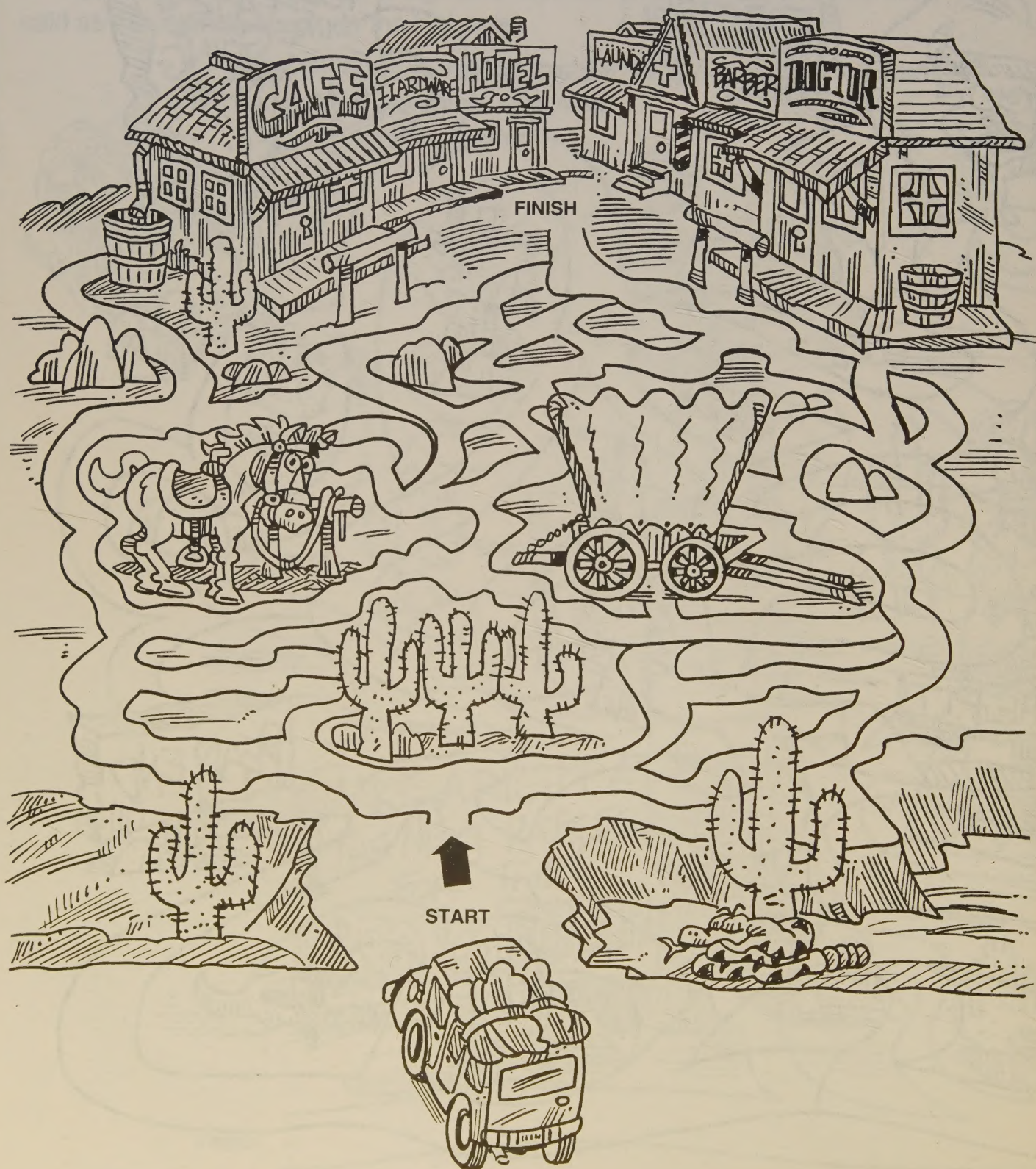
**Help the Carson family find the sign to the Bronco Ranch.
Be careful, the maze may lead
you to the wrong sign.**





The family soon found the sign and the rattlesnake sleeping under a cactus.
Mr. Carson made a right off the highway onto a dusty road.

Follow the road up to the small town.



The old dirt road dead-ended right in the middle of a rundown cow town.

"According to this," Mrs. Carson said, staring at the map, "we're supposed to stop at Snarly Sam's Feed Store for the last part of the directions to the ranch."

"I see it!" yelled Katie.

Follow the maze and help the Carsons get to Snarly Sam's Feed Store.



Mr. Carson got out of the car and tapped the snoozing Snarly Sam on the shoulder.

Snarly Sam grumbled, "You must want the Bronco Ranch. It's just a stone's throw from here."

He picked up a stone, hurled it as far as he could, and said, "Follow that!"

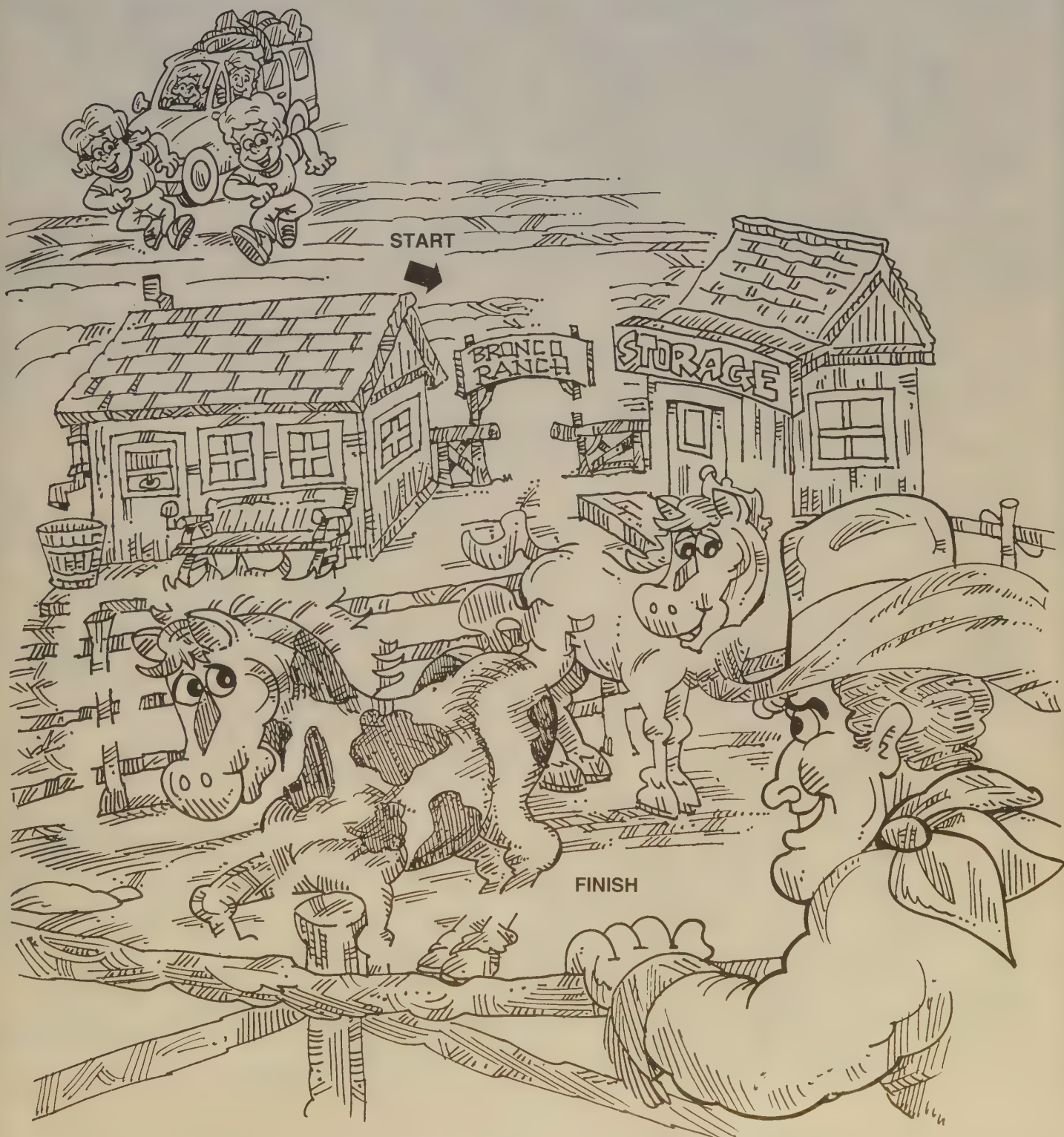
Help the Carson family find the stone that Snarly Sam threw.



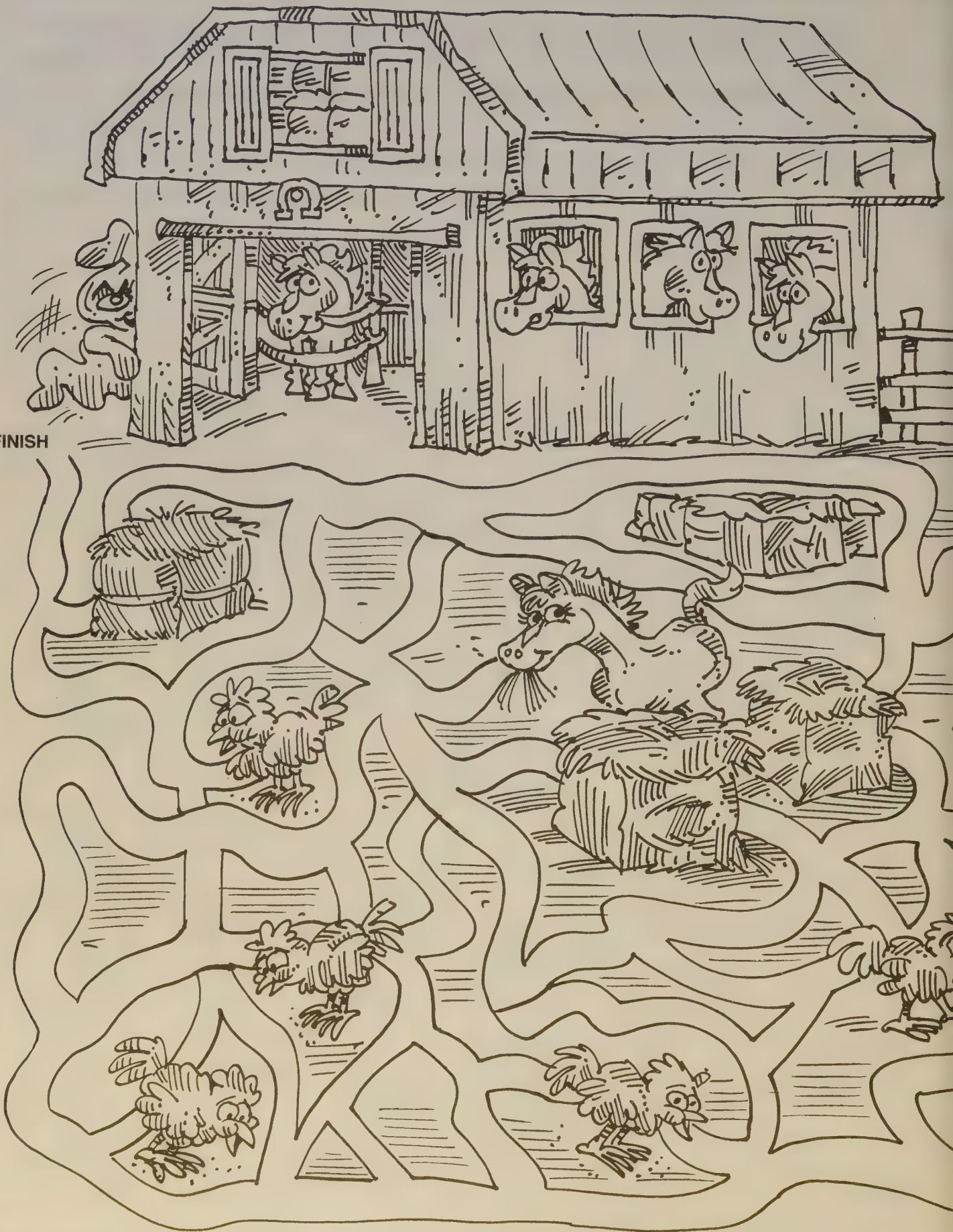
They finally arrived at the Bronco Ranch. Before Mr. Carson could turn off the car engine, Billy and Katie jumped out of the car and over to a corral full of horses.

"Hey, wait just a minute!" someone shouted after them. "You'll cause a stampede!"

Help Billy and Katie find the corral of horses.



FINISH



"I'm Twister Tex," said a friendly cowboy. "Now how do you folks reckon I got my name?"

Billy was about to guess when he saw something duck behind the barn.

"What's that?!" he shouted. "It . . . it looked like a ghost!"

Everyone laughed at poor Billy, but Jester ran off to see for himself.

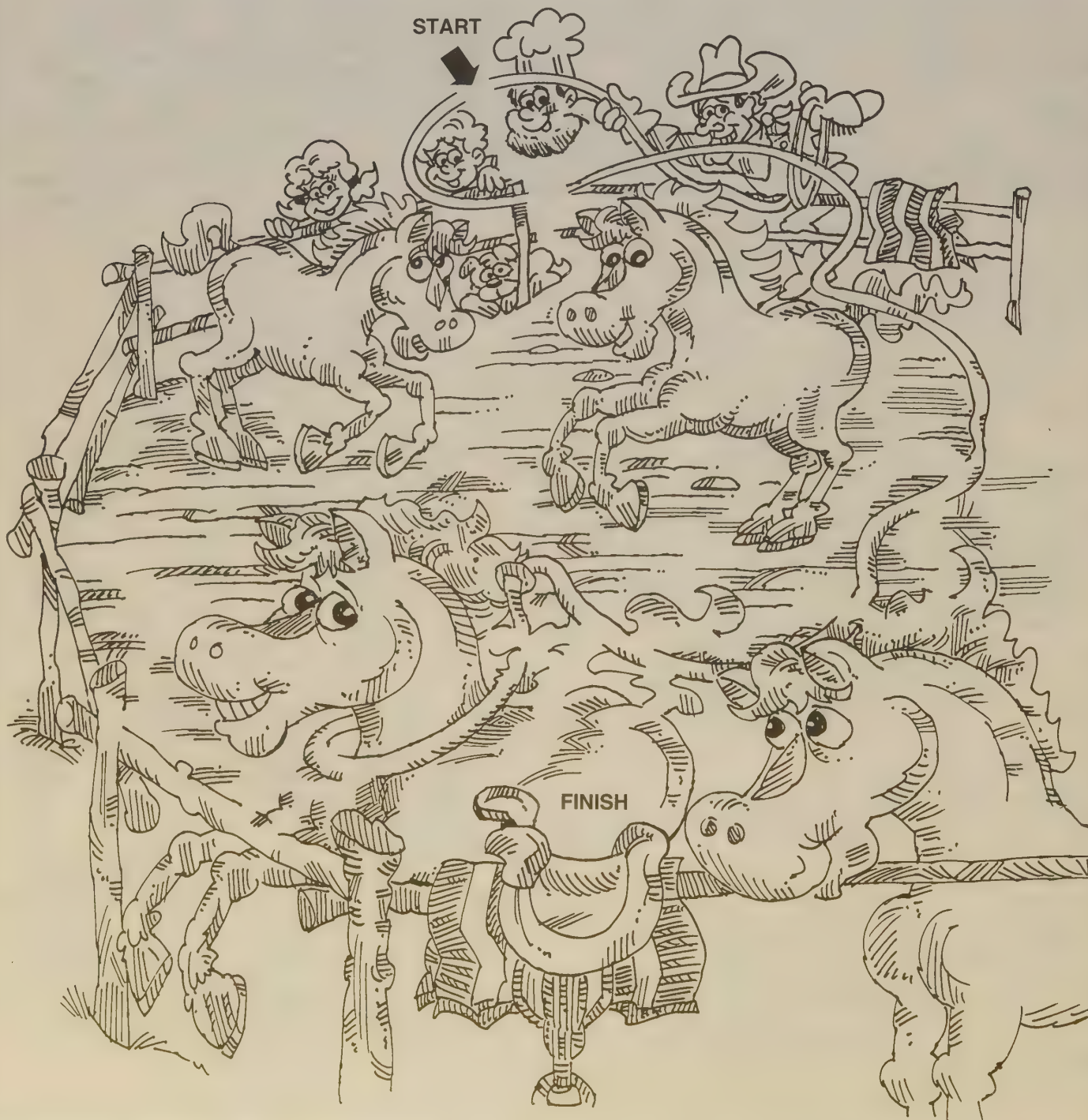
Follow Jester as he scurries to find out what's behind the barn.



The ranch's cook, Potbelly Pete, strolled up and said, "How *did* you get your name, Tex?"

"Well, we all know how you got your name! But if I could make a pot of three-alarm chili like you could, I'd be twice as big!" laughed Tex, glancing at the cook's big belly. He turned to the Carsons. "I got my name a long time ago when I saved a town from destruction by lassoing a tornado!" With that, he whipped his rope out and lassoed a bronco before anyone could blink!

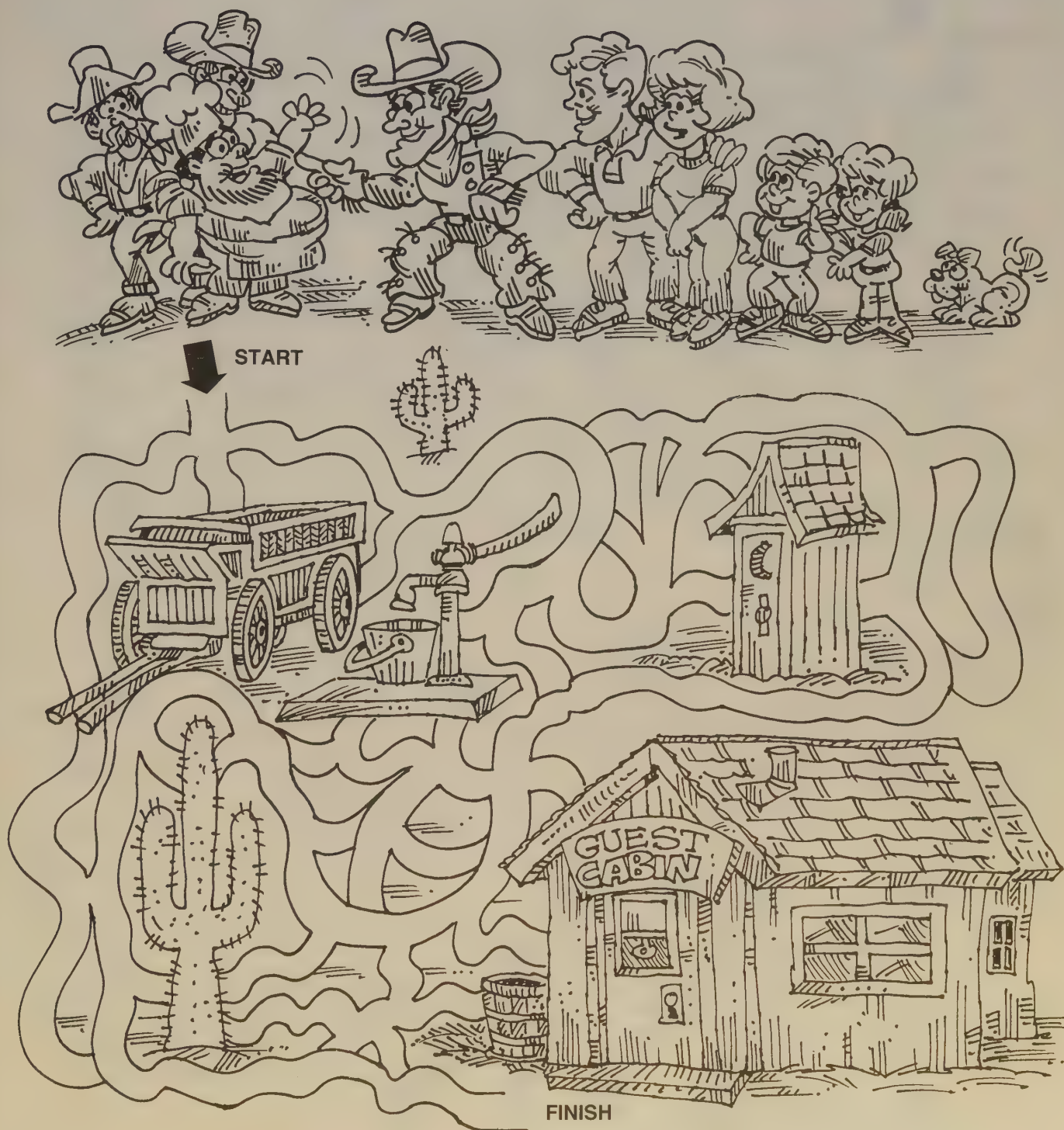
While Tex captures the wild horse, find the extra saddle at the end of the maze.



Tex introduced Billy and his family to Potbelly Pete and all the other ranch hands. Then he led the Carsons to their cabin.

"Better rest up, folks," said Tex as he left. "Tomorrow we're going on a big cattle drive!"

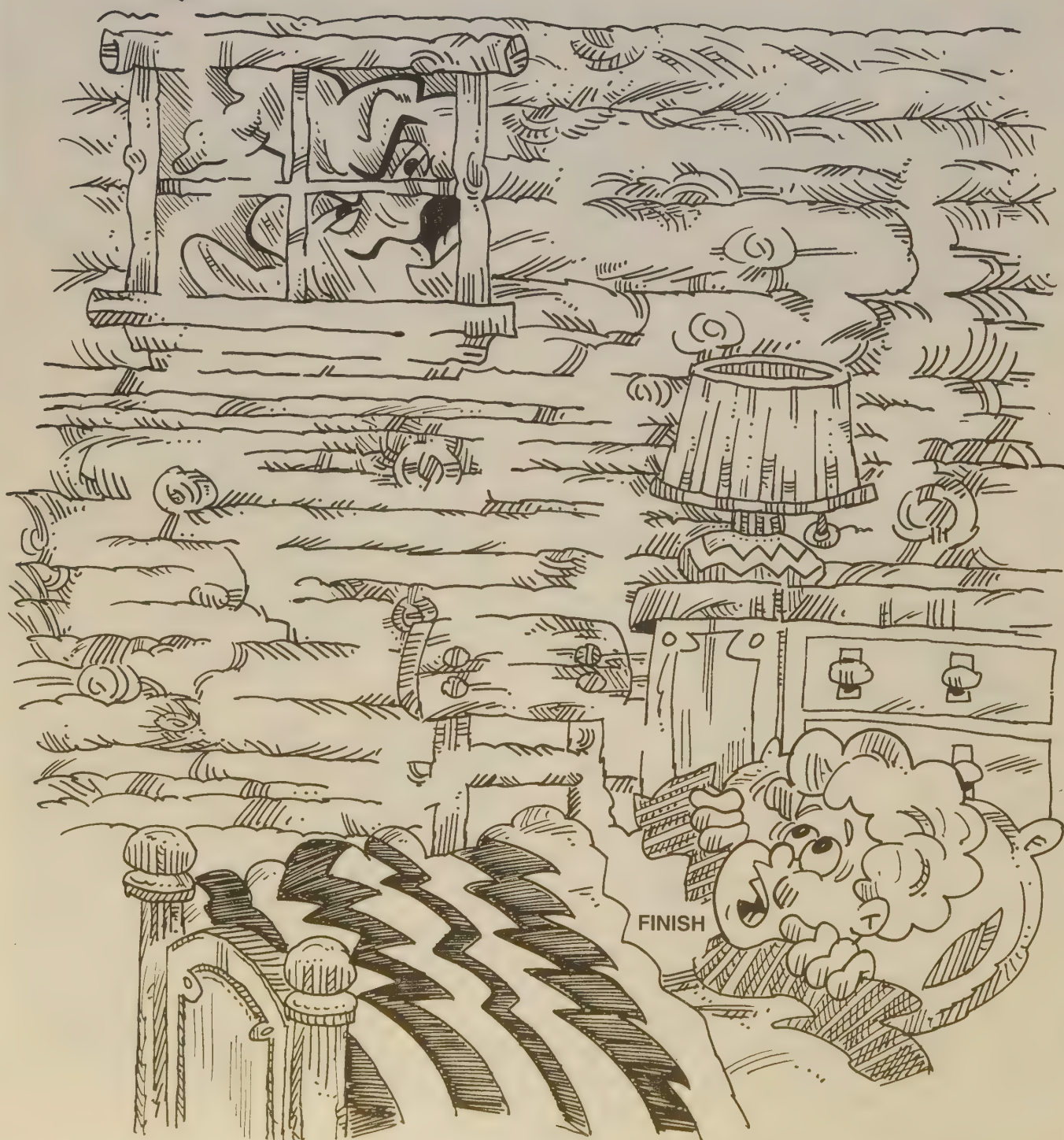
Follow the maze and help the Carsons reach their cabin.



That night Billy could hardly sleep. There were so many strange noises out in the desert. Suddenly, he saw something peering at him through the cabin window. It was a ghost! He quickly closed his eyes, and when he opened them, the ghost was gone.

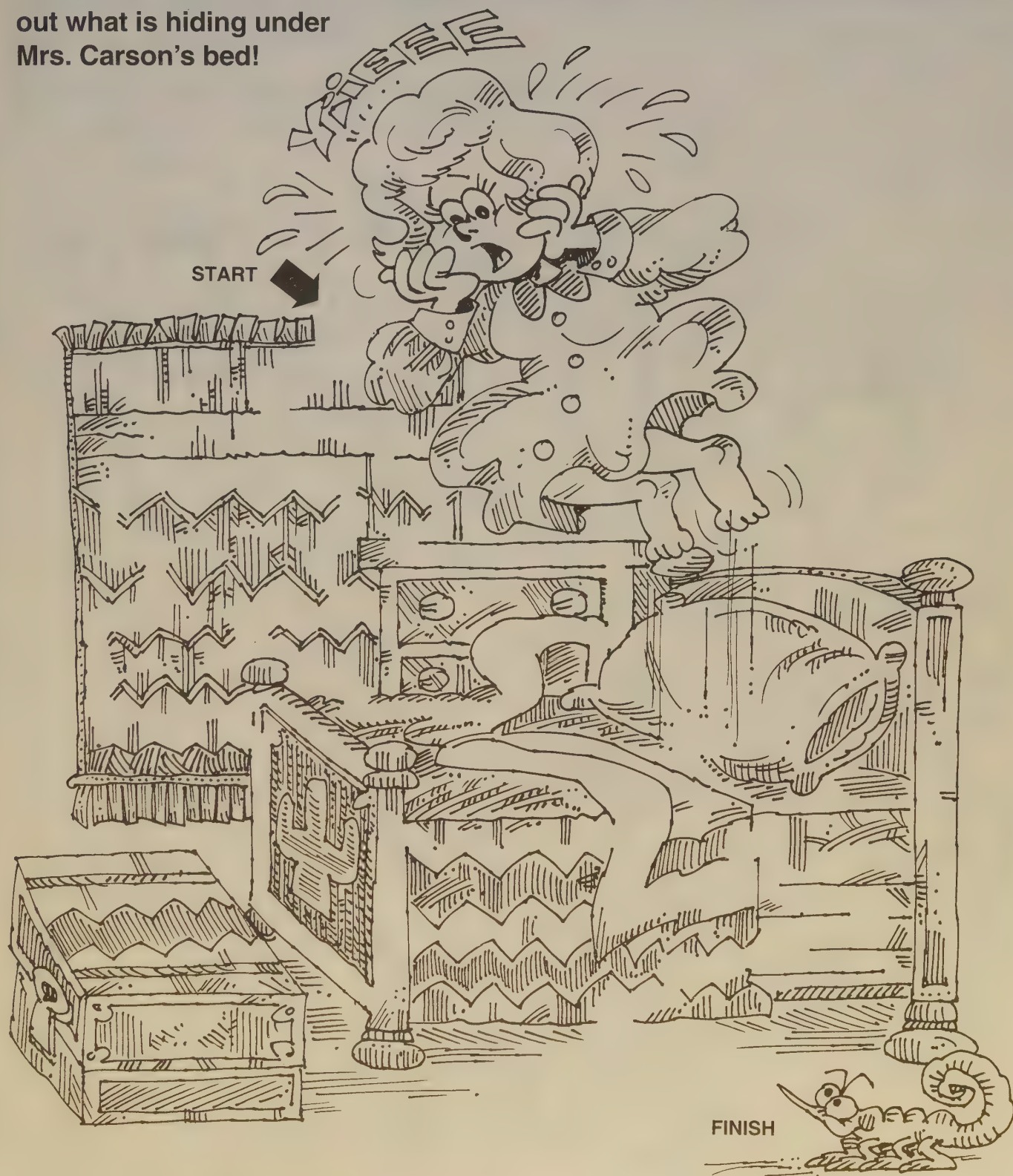
Follow the maze from the ghost in the window to a frightened Billy.

START



Morning didn't come a moment too soon. Billy was glad when he heard Tex calling everyone to breakfast. His mother was the first one out of bed, and she almost stepped on a very creepy critter!

Follow the maze and find out what is hiding under Mrs. Carson's bed!



While Katie and Billy were getting dressed, Katie reached up on the dresser and nearly grabbed a coiled-up snake instead of her fancy cowboy belt.

"Watch out!" Billy shouted just in time.

Can you find the path from Katie to her real belt?

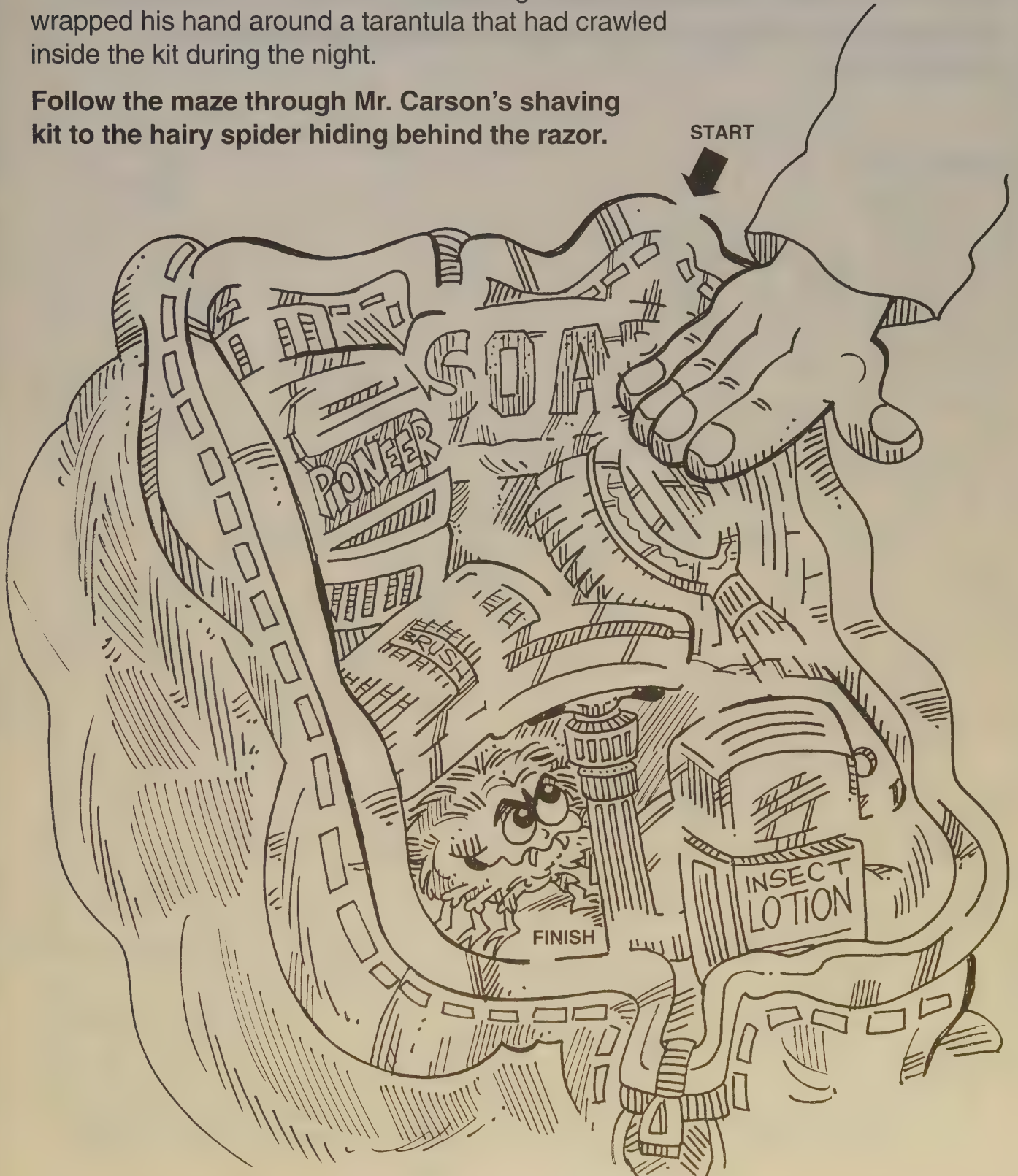


"Let's get out of this creepy cabin!" said Mrs. Carson, but Billy's father wasn't ready.

"You all go on to the mess hall," he said. "I'll be there right after I shave."

He searched for his razor in his shaving kit and almost wrapped his hand around a tarantula that had crawled inside the kit during the night.

Follow the maze through Mr. Carson's shaving kit to the hairy spider hiding behind the razor.



While everyone ate a hearty breakfast of flapjacks, Jester was busy with Potbelly Pete. For some reason, the little dog had taken a dislike to the cook and had cornered him on a chair in the mess hall. Potbelly Pete was waving a pan at Jester and yelling, "Get this mutt away from me!"

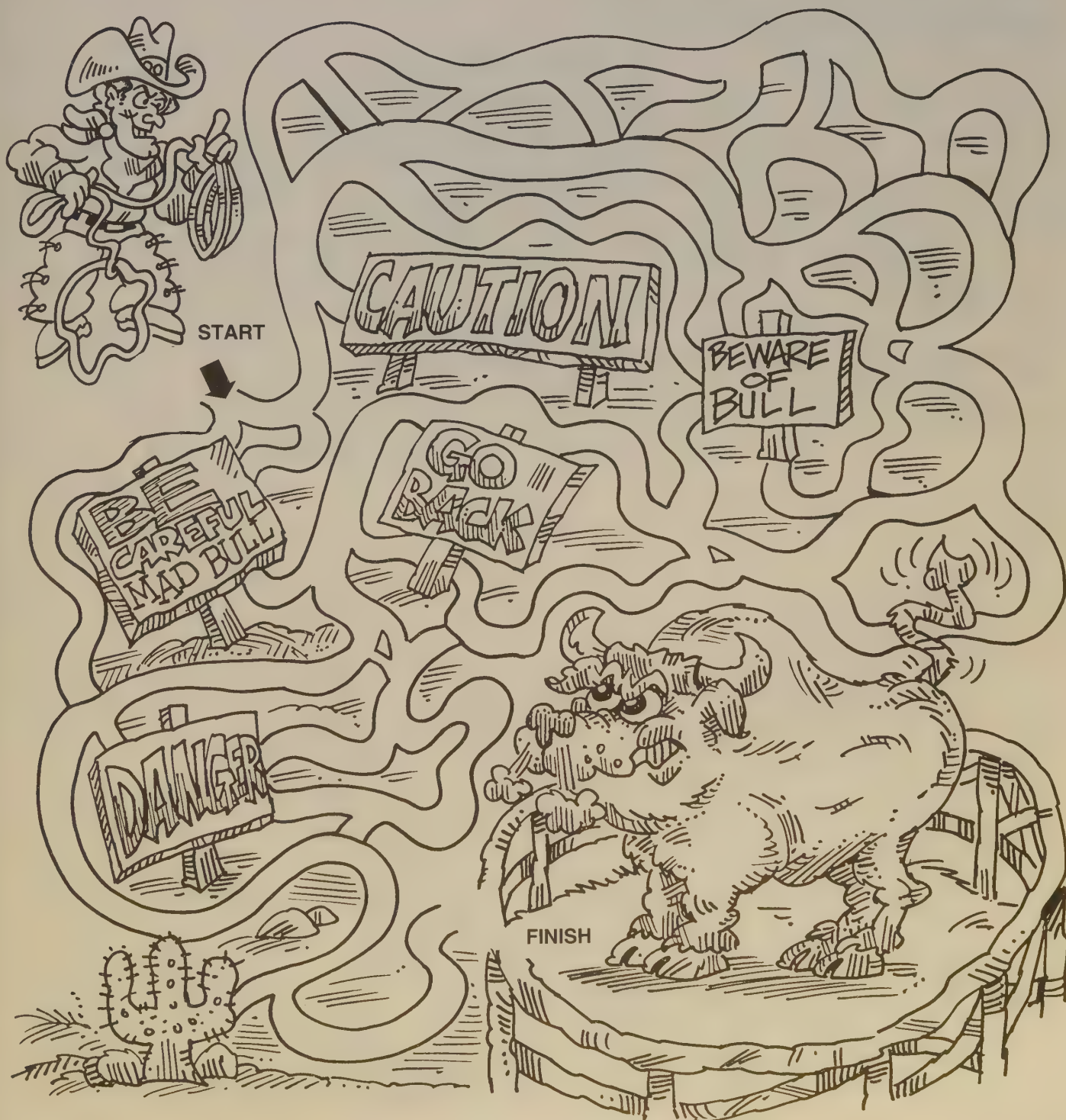
Follow the maze through the mess hall to Jester and the cornered Potbelly Pete.



Before the cattle drive, Twister Tex gave everyone a quick lesson on how to rope. "Be careful," he warned. "You don't want to lasso something like Old Bufford there."

He pointed to the far end of the field.

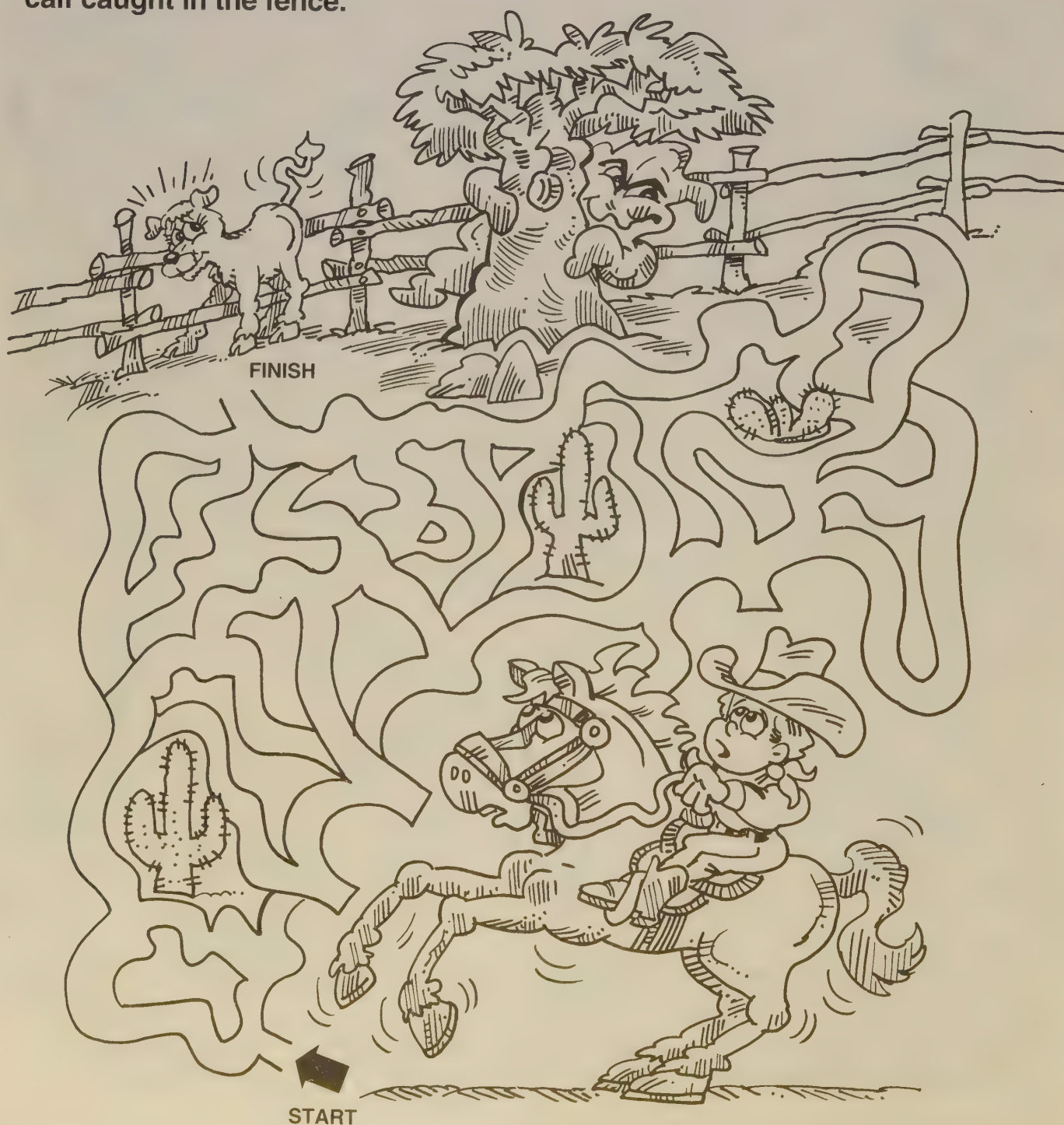
Find out who Old Bufford is by following the path to the edge of the field.



During the cattle drive, a calf got caught in a fence, and Billy rode over to free it. But as he was untangling the calf, he saw the ghost peering at him from behind the tree. He was just about to say something when Twister Tex slapped him on the back.

"You know something, my boy," said the old ranch hand. "You're a real cowpoke!" Real cowpokes don't see ghosts, thought Billy, so he decided not to say anything.

Follow the maze from Billy to the calf caught in the fence.



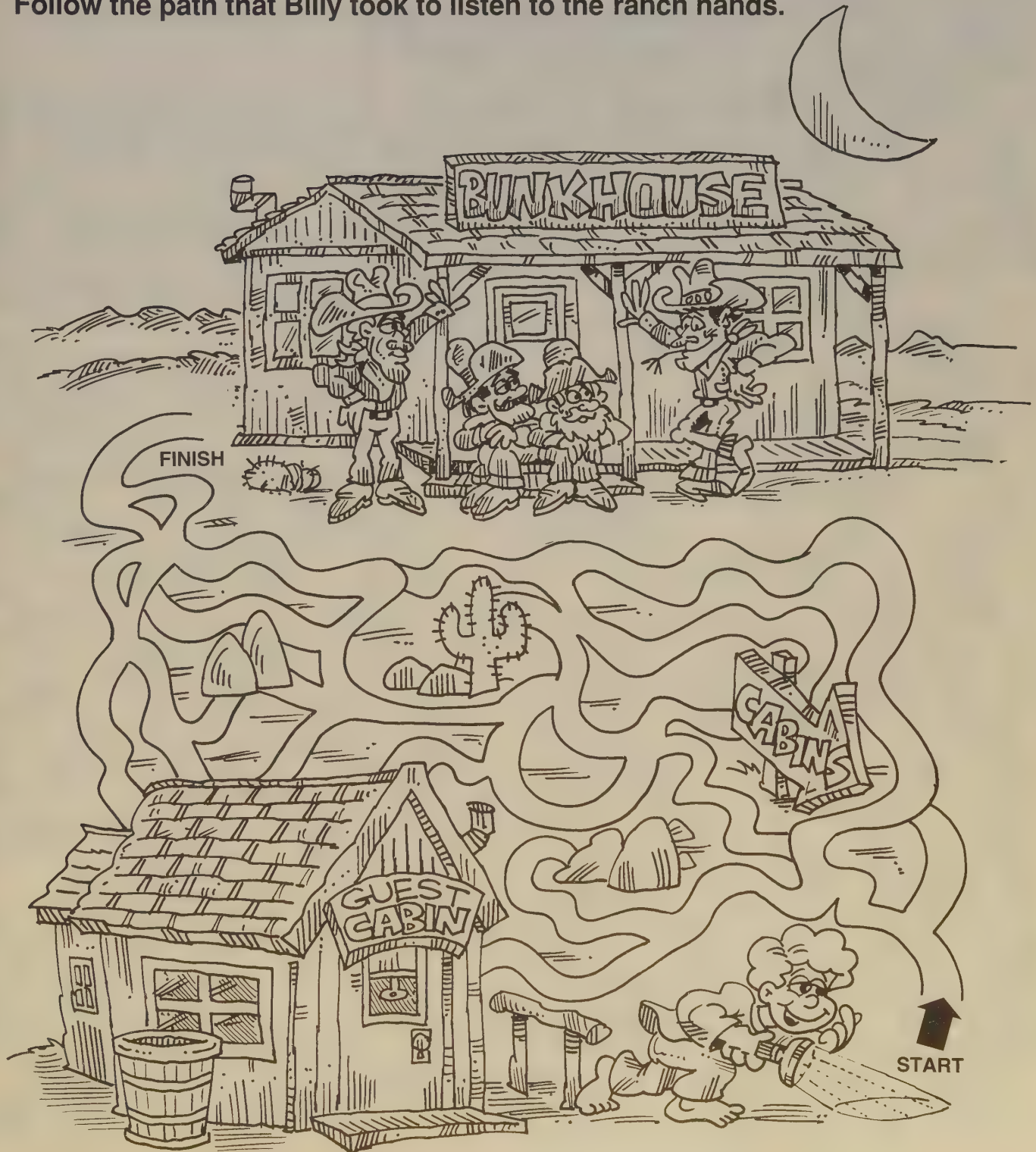
That night Billy snuck behind the bunkhouse where some ranch hands were talking.

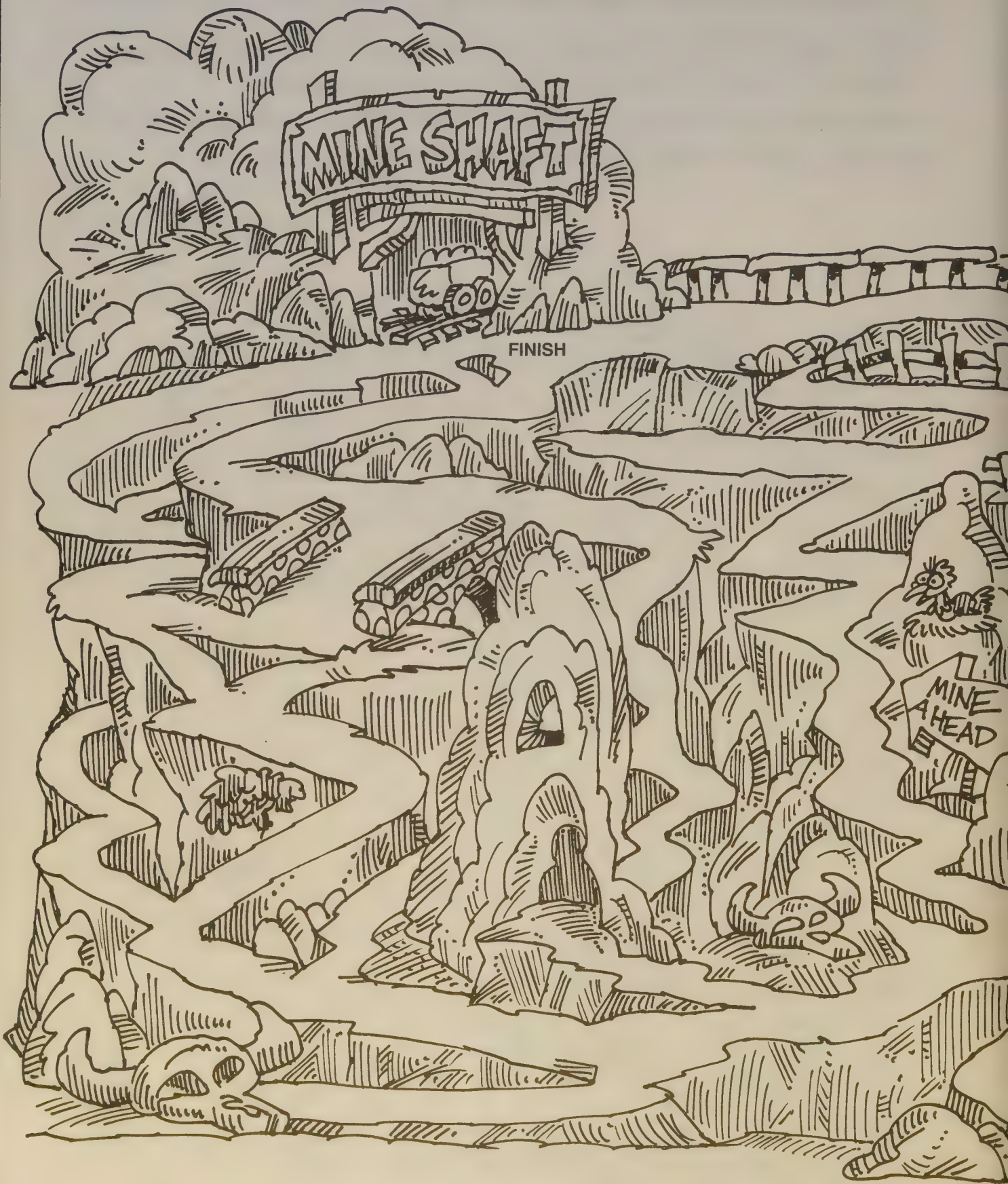
"Well, it looks like the Carsons might stay," said Tex. "No thanks to that ghost."

"I for one want the *old* Bronco Ranch back," said Lucky Luke.

"Yeah," said Dusty Dan. "I miss the days when folks were always at the ranch."

Follow the path that Billy took to listen to the ranch hands.





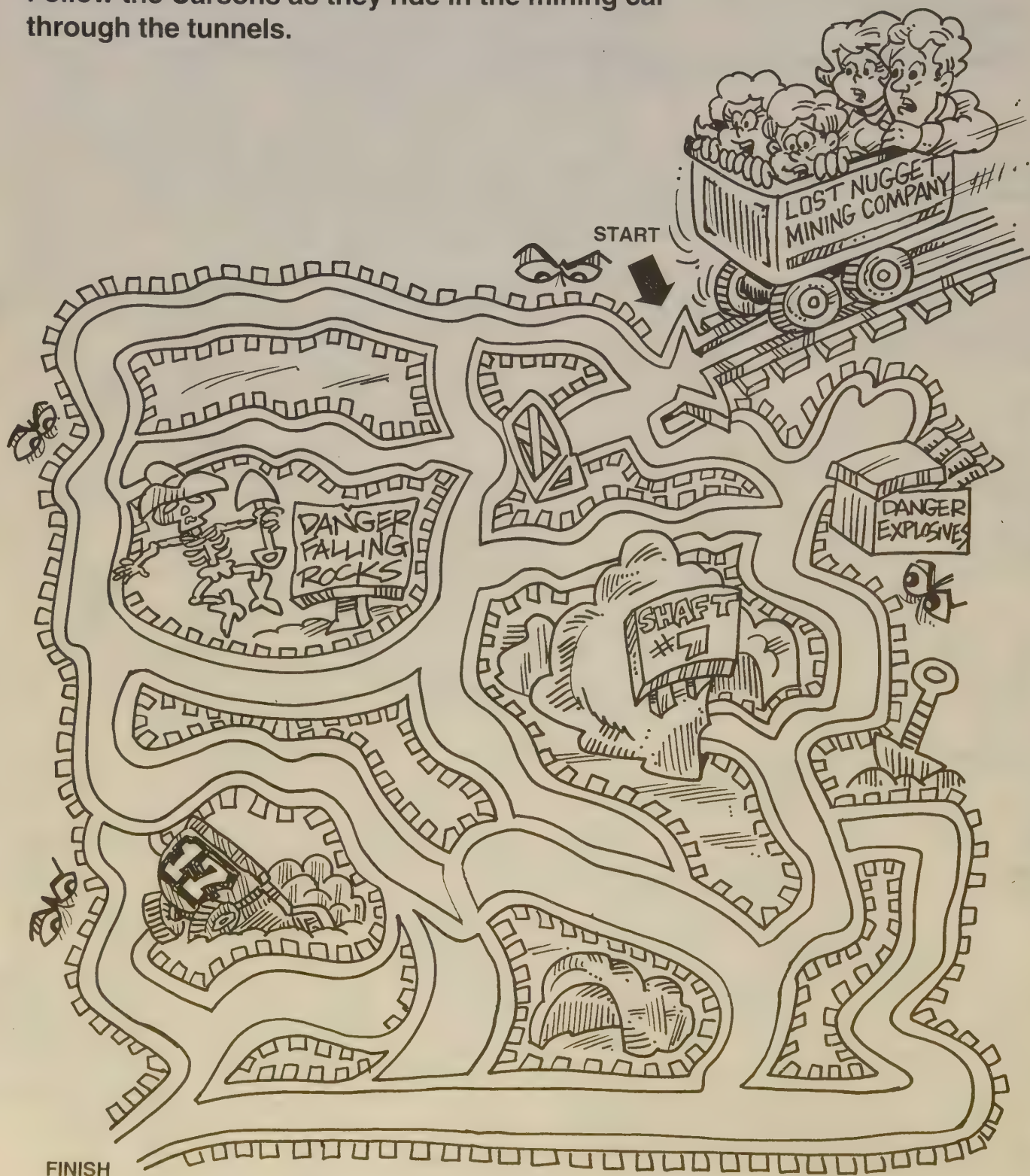
In the morning, the Carsons saddled up for a trail ride to the old mining shaft. "Now this is a mighty long ride," said Twister Tex, "so I asked our cook to rustle up a snack to eat along the way. Did you make your famous chili, old Pete?" "Not yet, not yet," said Potbelly Pete, passing a small sack of apple fritters to each person.

Can you help the Carsons follow the trail to the old mining shaft?



Once in the mining shaft, Billy forgot all about the ghost. He was having so much fun as he and his family took a ride in an old mining car. It was like a roller-coaster ride!

Follow the Carsons as they ride in the mining car through the tunnels.



The next day, everyone strapped sleeping bags onto their horses and rode to a deserted campsite.

When they got to the campsite, Twister Tex said, "Now I need everyone to pick up some dead branches for firewood. Then tomorrow morning we'll head out to Lake Geronimo!"

Jester has wandered off to find his contribution to the campfire. Help him find his way back to camp.



"I'm going to try to find that lake Tex told us about," Katie whispered to Billy.
"But Tex said he'd take us there later," Billy said, watching his sister walk off.
Billy decided to secretly follow her to make sure she didn't get into any trouble.

**Watch Billy trail his sister as she wanders off in search of the lake,
and follow the maze.**



As Katie saw the lake in the distance, she exclaimed, "Oh, boy! There it is—it's beautiful!"

By following the maze, can you reach the lake before Katie does?

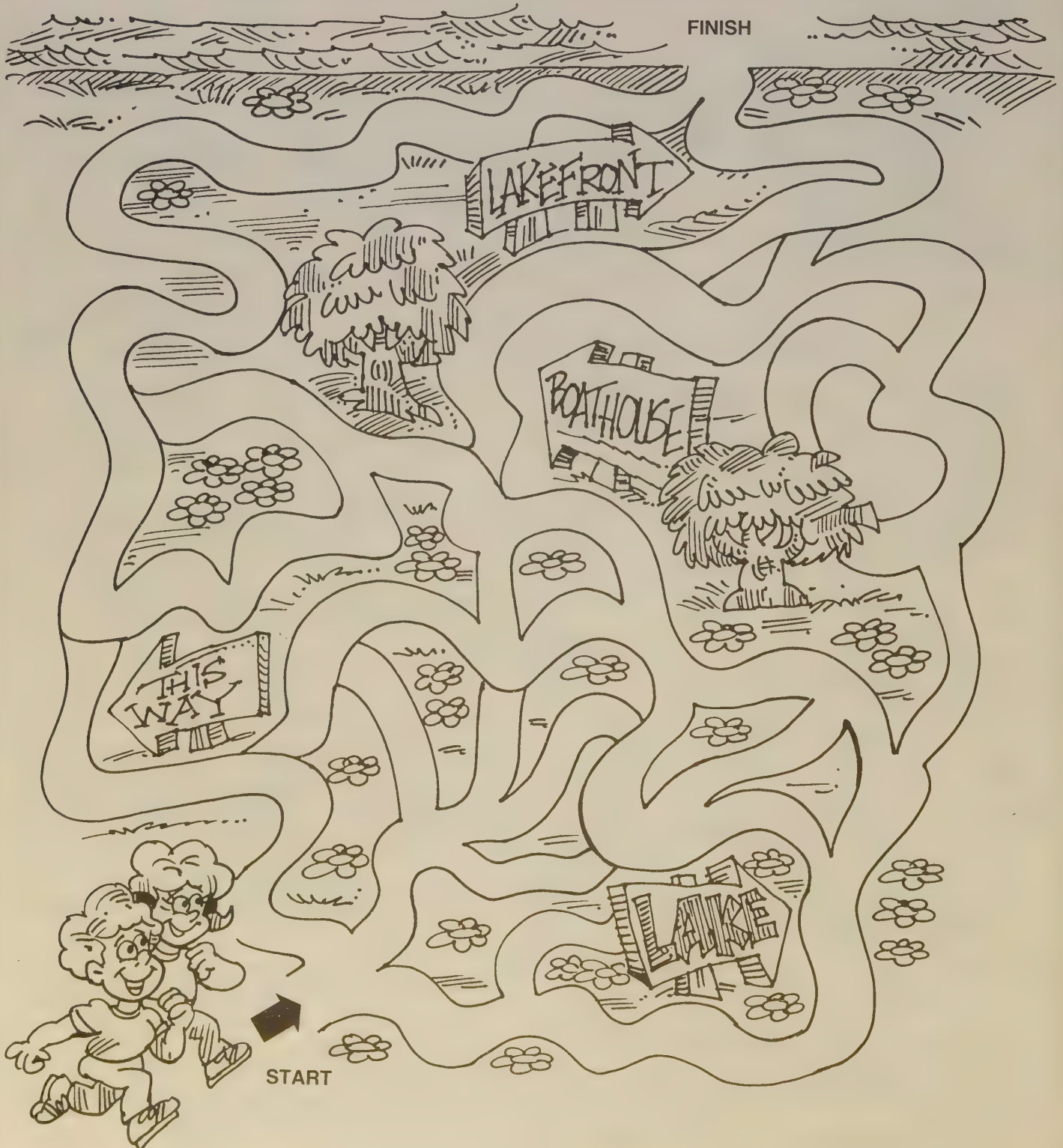


Billy had followed Katie all the way to the lake without her noticing him, but when he, too, saw how pretty the small lake was, he shouted, "Wow!"

Katie jumped. "Billy!" she said angrily. "You scared me!"

"Oh, don't be a spoil sport. C'mon!" said Billy. "Let's go for a swim!"

Follow the maze from Katie and Billy to the shore of the desert lake.



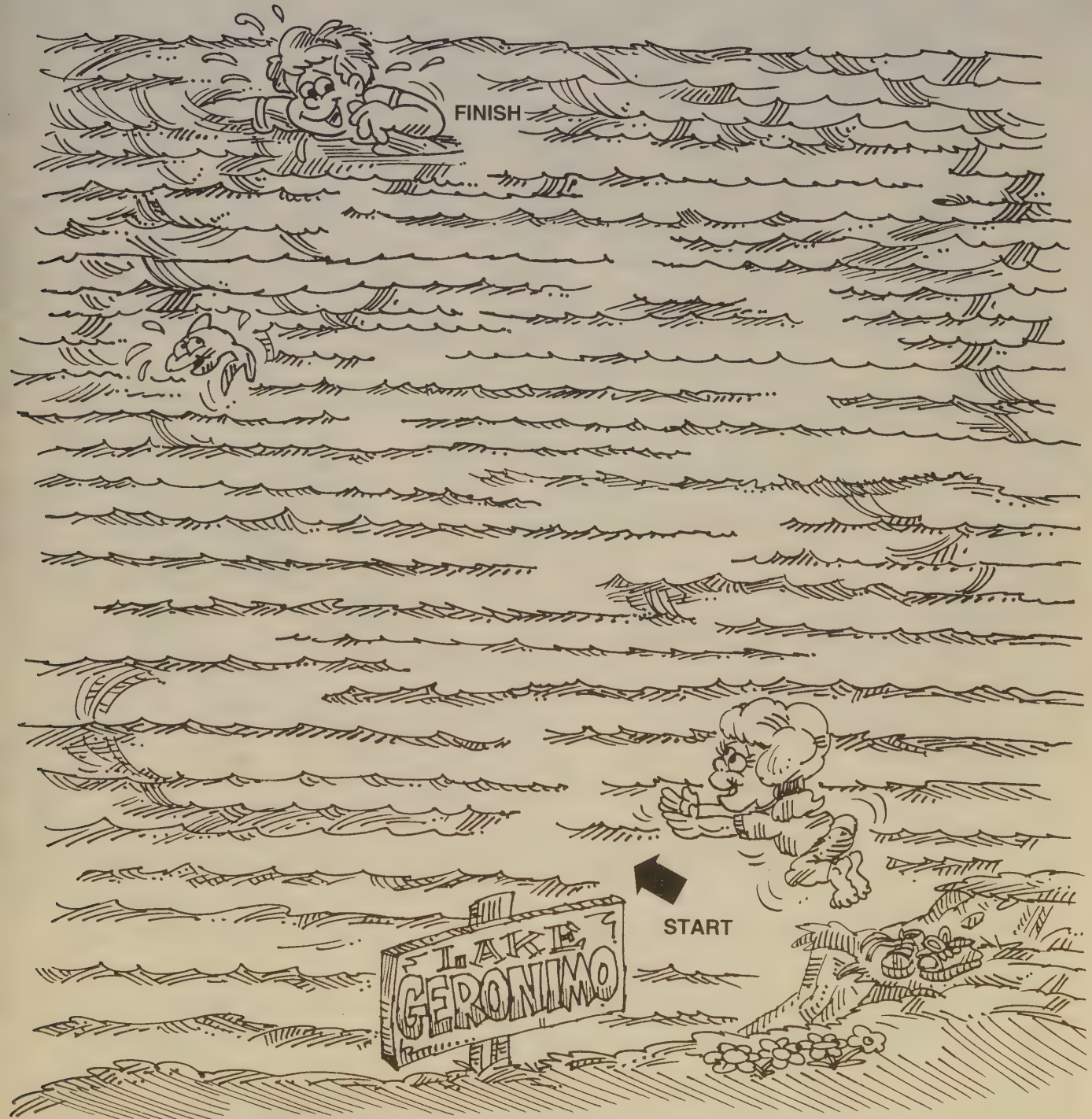
Katie shivered. "A swim? There might be *things* in there."

Running into the water, Billy yelled, "See you later, scaredy cat!"

Katie whipped off her shoes and swam after her brother—fully clothed!

After a good swim, they relaxed on the sand. "So which way is it back to camp?" asked Katie.

Help Katie swim out to her brother in the lake.



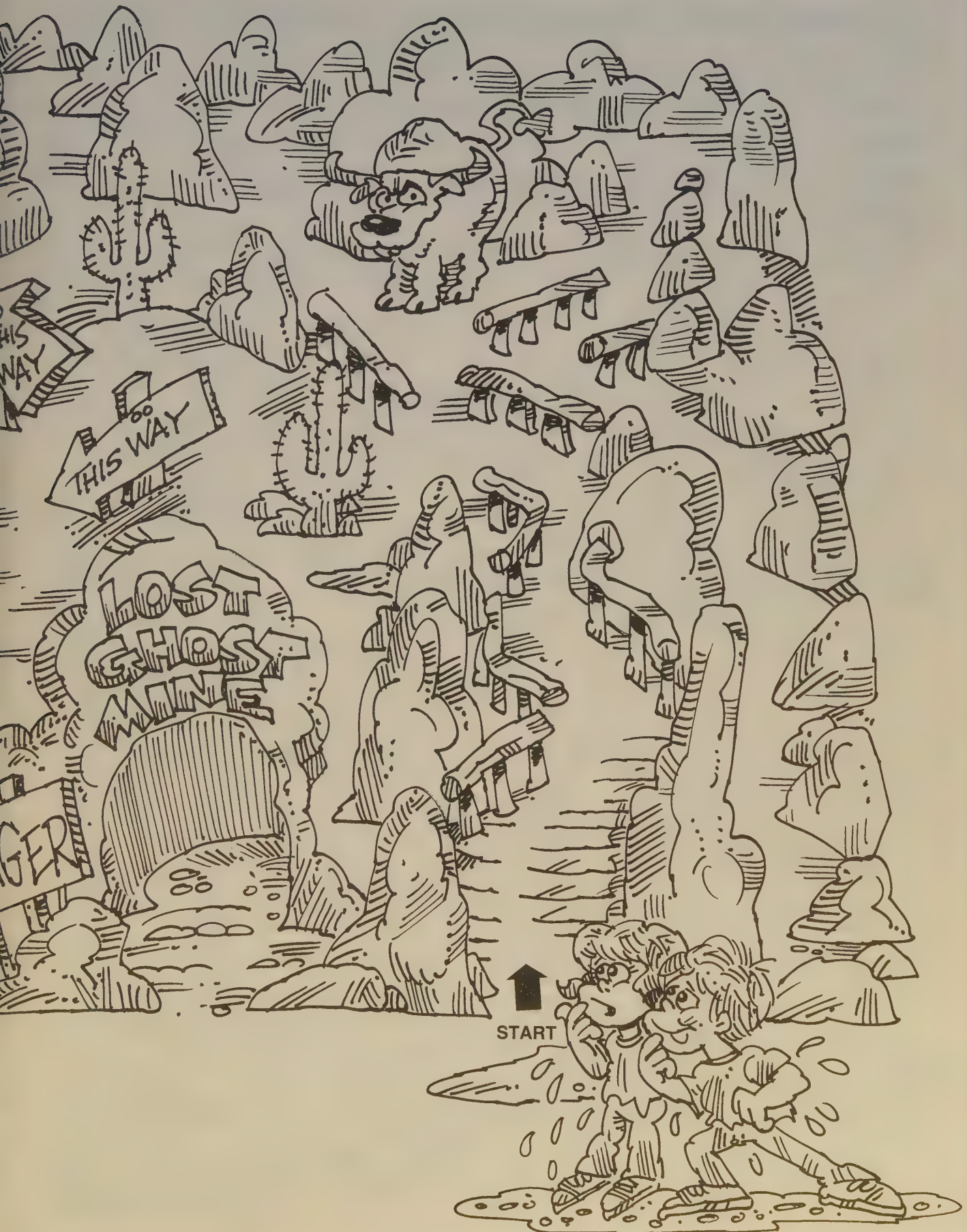


Billy shrugged. "I was busy following you," he said. "I didn't notice which way we were going."

"That's just great!" said Katie, trying not to sound as worried as she was.

But then suddenly, Billy and Katie heard something that told them which way to go.

Follow the maze and help Katie and Billy find who has come to help them.

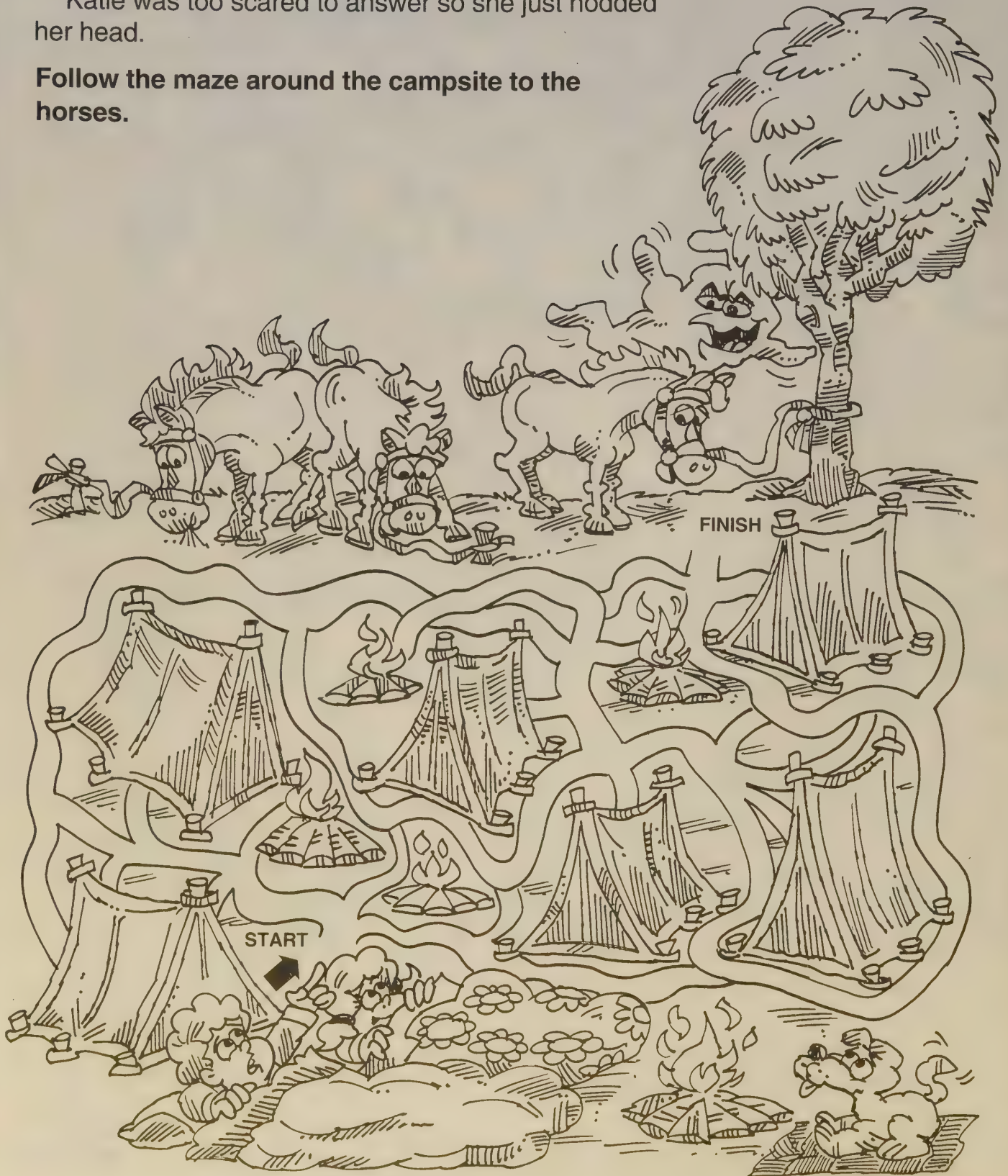


That night Billy and Katie were telling each other ghost stories when suddenly they both saw a white object float out from behind the grazing horses.

"It's the ghost!" Billy whispered. "Do you see it?"

Katie was too scared to answer so she just nodded her head.

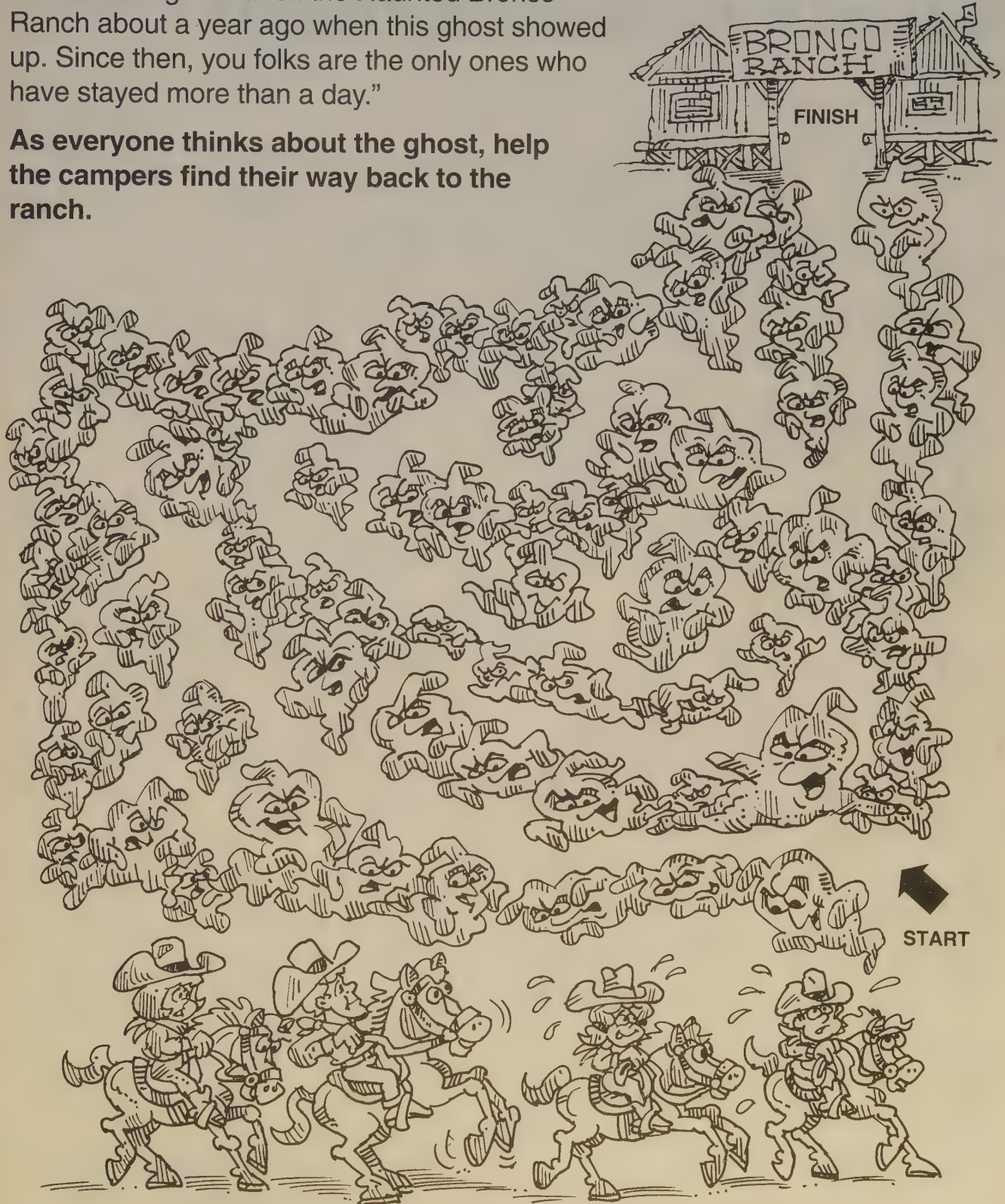
Follow the maze around the campsite to the horses.



The next day the kids tried to convince their parents about the ghost, but Mr. and Mrs. Carson wouldn't believe them.

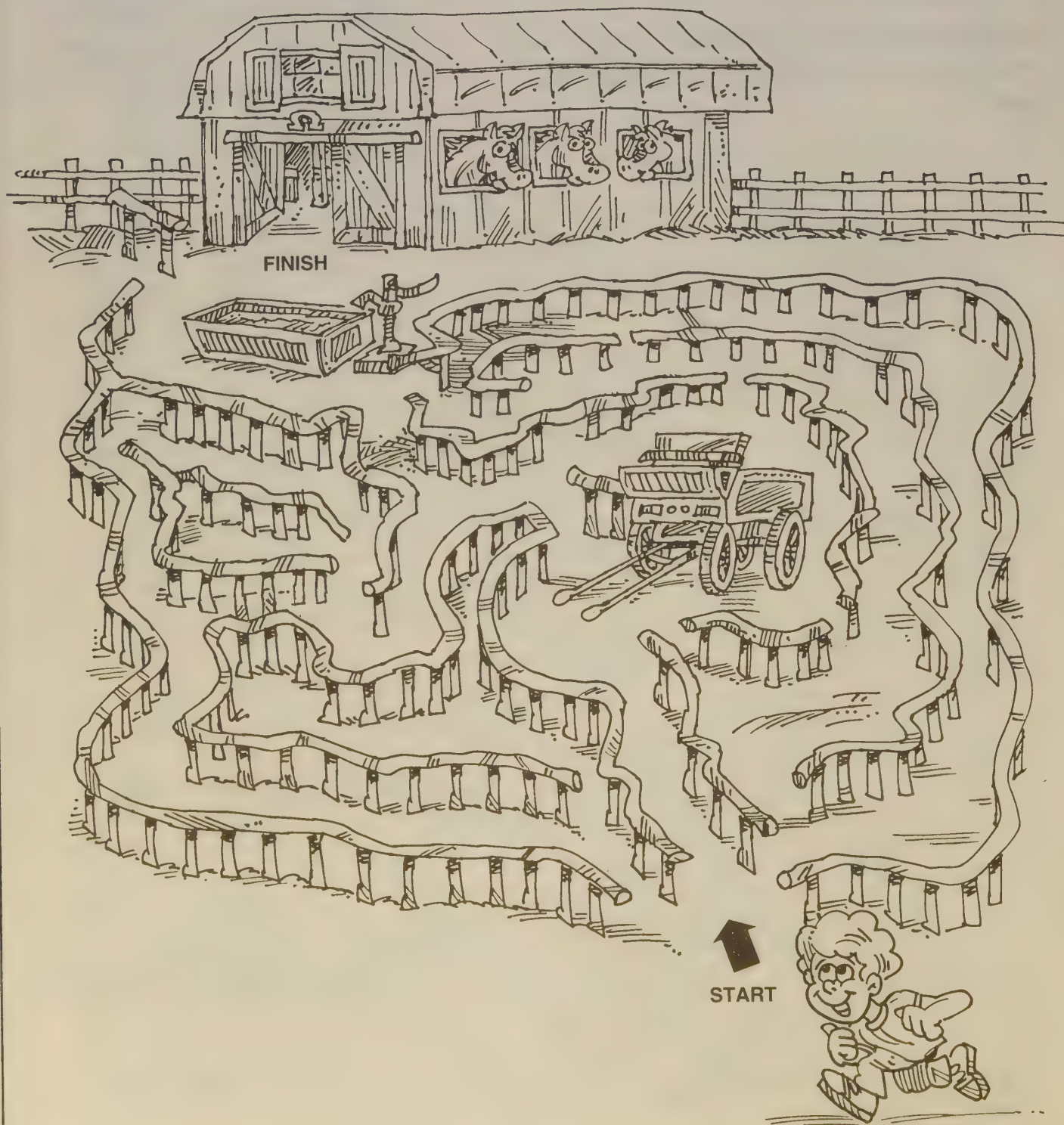
"They're telling the truth," said Twister Tex as they rode back to the ranch. "We started calling the ranch the Haunted Bronco Ranch about a year ago when this ghost showed up. Since then, you folks are the only ones who have stayed more than a day."

As everyone thinks about the ghost, help the campers find their way back to the ranch.



They arrived back at the ranch late that afternoon. While Mr. and Mrs. Carson and Katie went to their cabin to rest, Billy poked around the stables. He wanted to say good-bye to his horse, since he and his family were going home the next day.

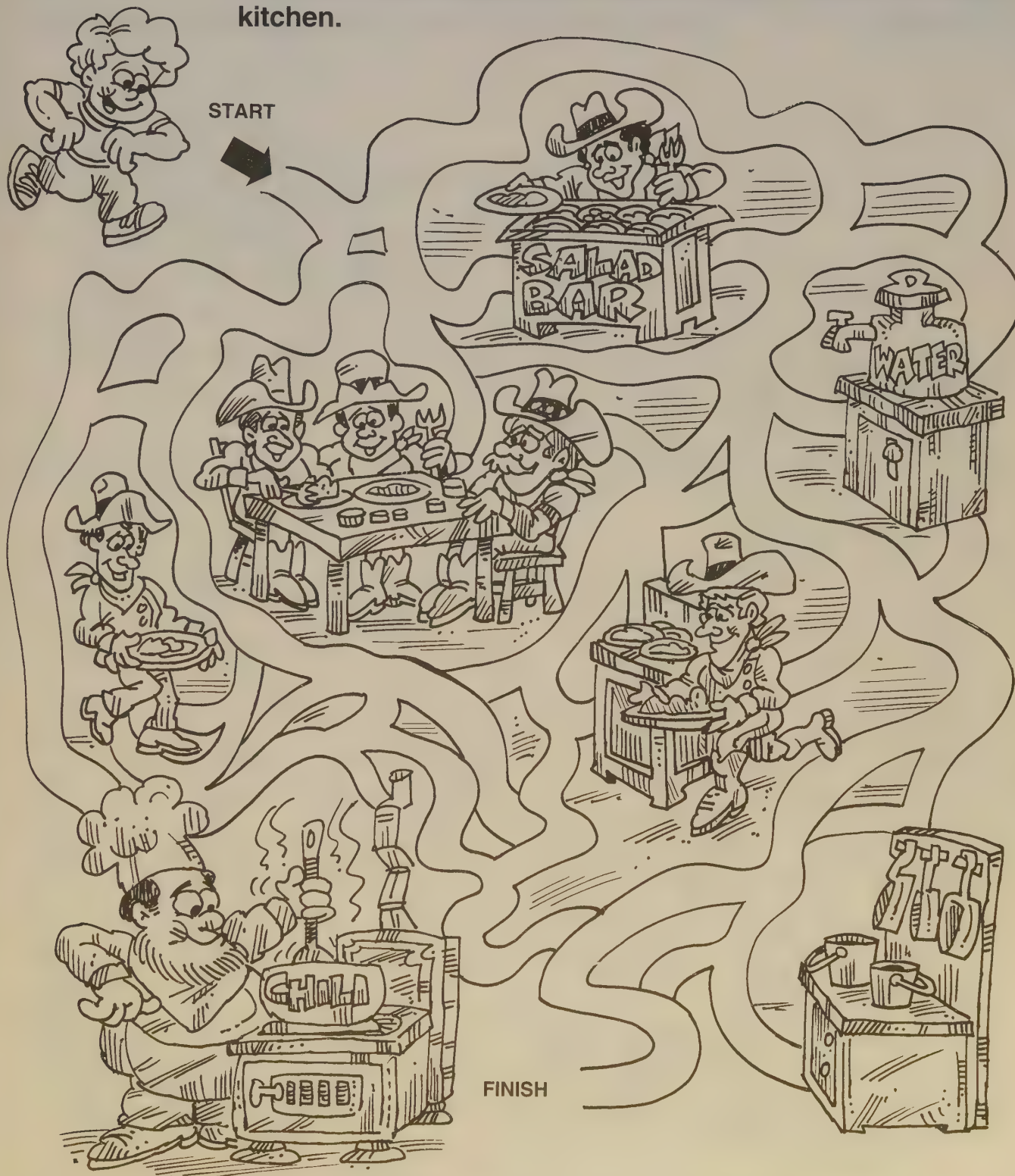
Help Billy reach the stables by getting around all the fences on the ranch.



Getting hungry, Billy wandered over to the mess hall to see Potbelly Pete. The fat old cook was stirring a huge batch of his famous three-alarm chili for the night's big send-off.

"Can I help?" Billy asked, hoping that he could taste some chili.

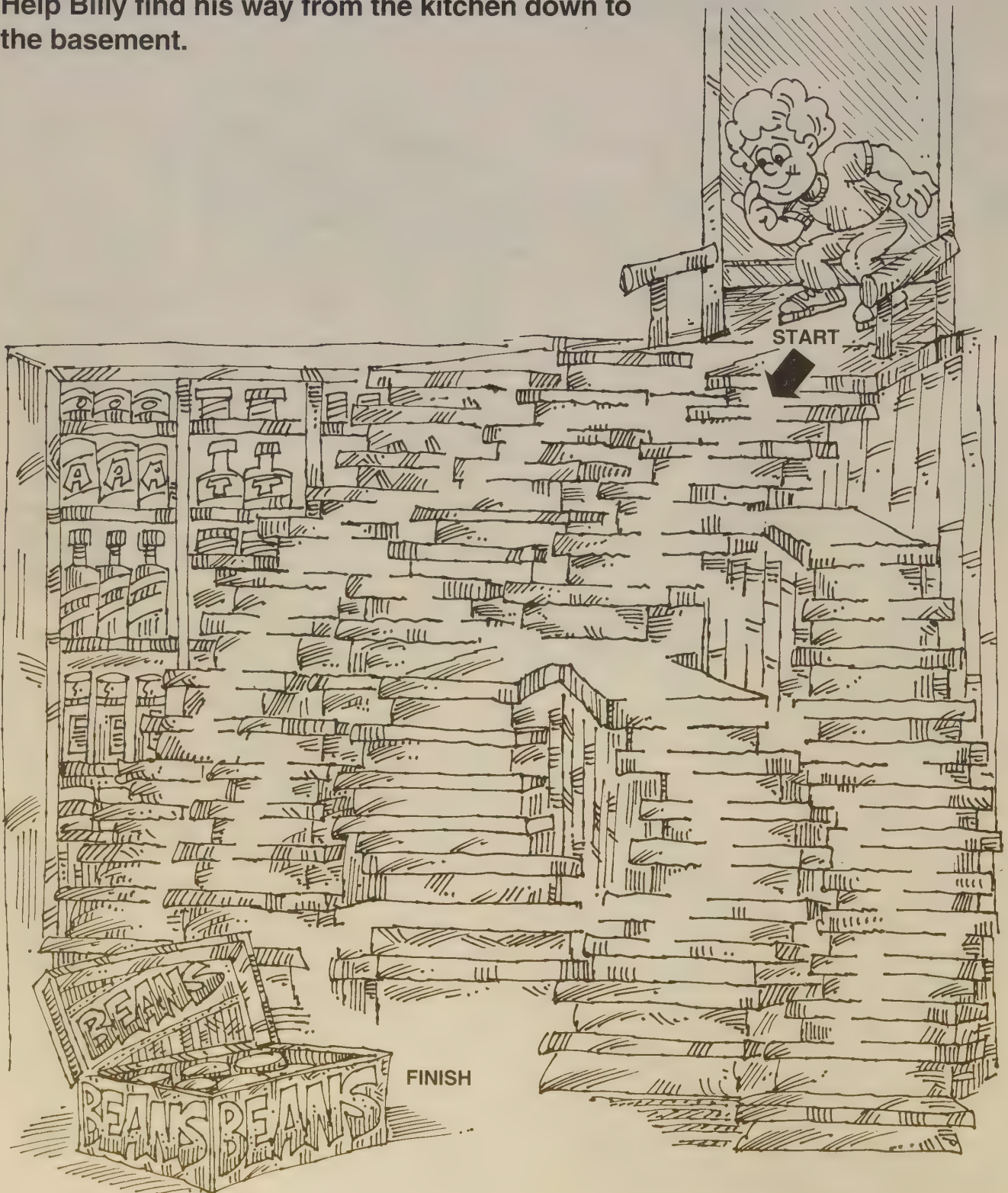
Help Billy make his way through the mess hall and into the kitchen.



Potbelly Pete jumped like he'd just seen a ghost.

"You scared me, boy!" he snarled. Then his voice grew nice again. "Uhh . . . sure you can help me. Just go on down to the basement and bring me up a big can of beans."

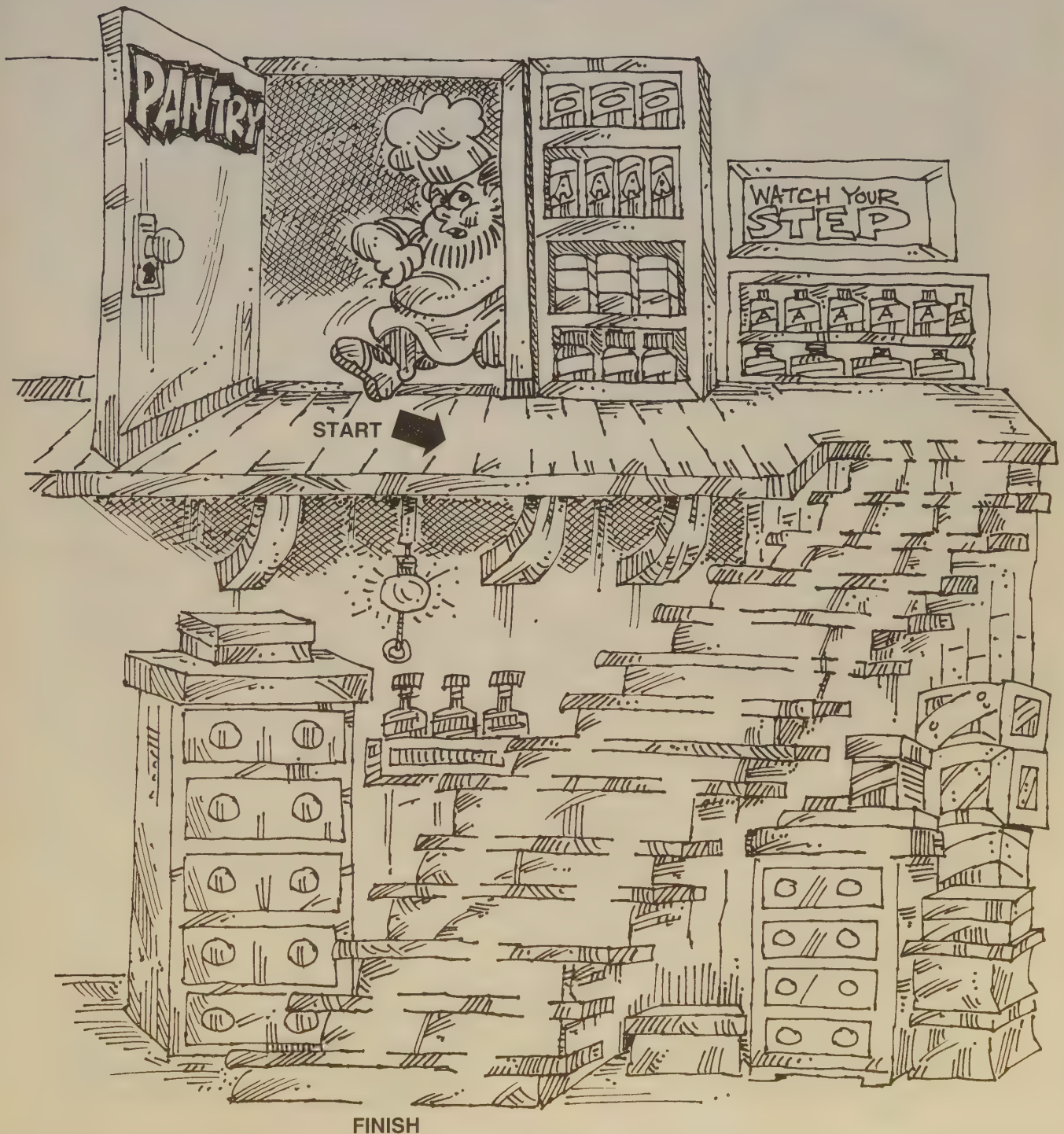
Help Billy find his way from the kitchen down to the basement.



After Billy left to get the beans, Potbelly Pete mumbled, "Thank goodness, that family is finally leaving tomorrow. That boy is bound to find my money soon." Then old Pete thumped a fat hand against his forehead.

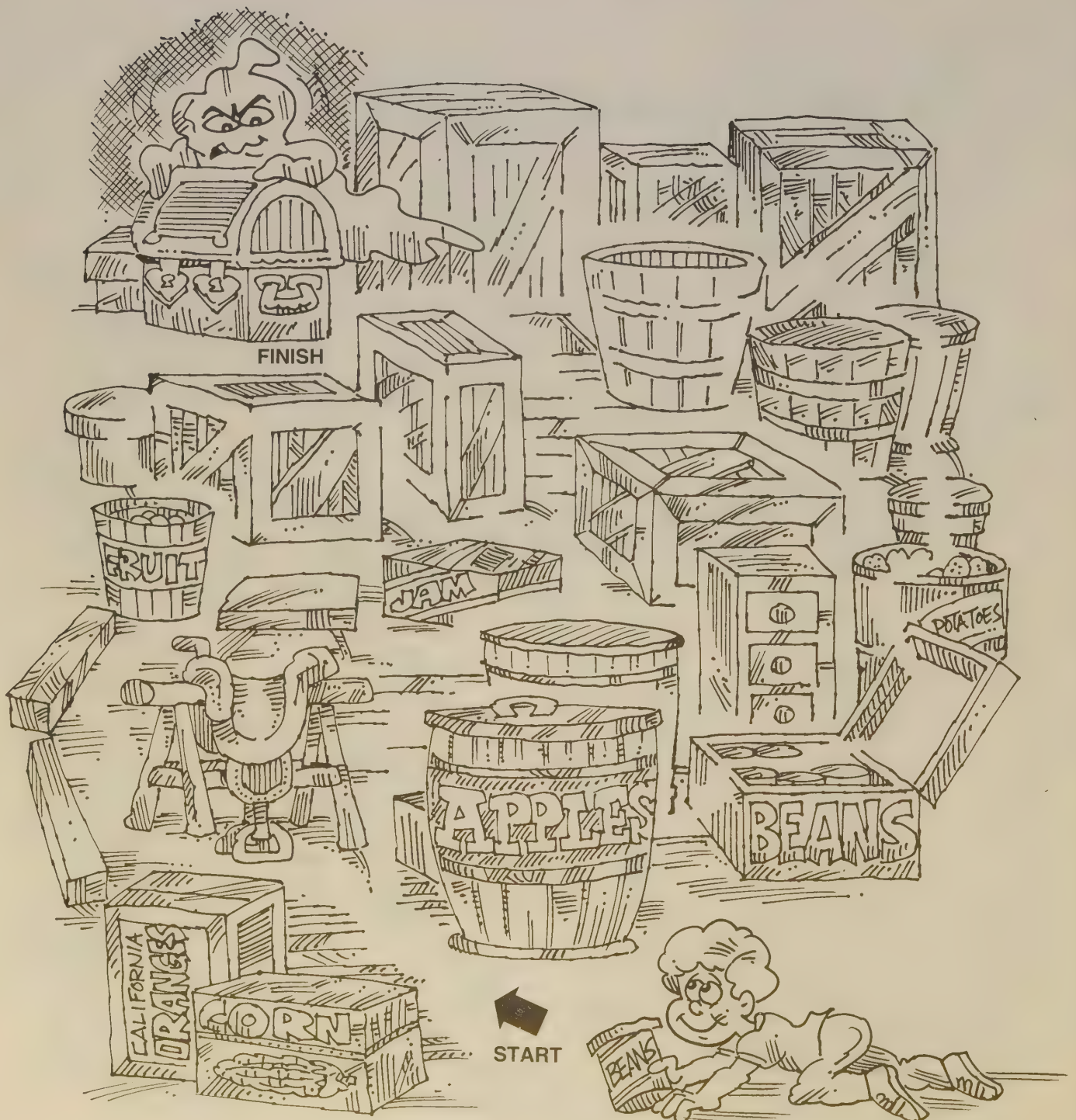
"What kind of idiot am I?" he shouted. He quickly opened a door in the back of the kitchen and disappeared down a secret passageway.

Follow Potbelly Pete through the secret passageway.



Just as Billy found the can of beans, he heard a low moan. Scared half out of his wits, he crouched in the corner. Then he spotted the ghost behind an old trunk. Being careful not to be heard, Billy crawled around behind the ghost and WHAM! He beaned the ghost right on the head with a can of beans!

Help Billy quietly crawl through the basement to where the ghost is hiding.



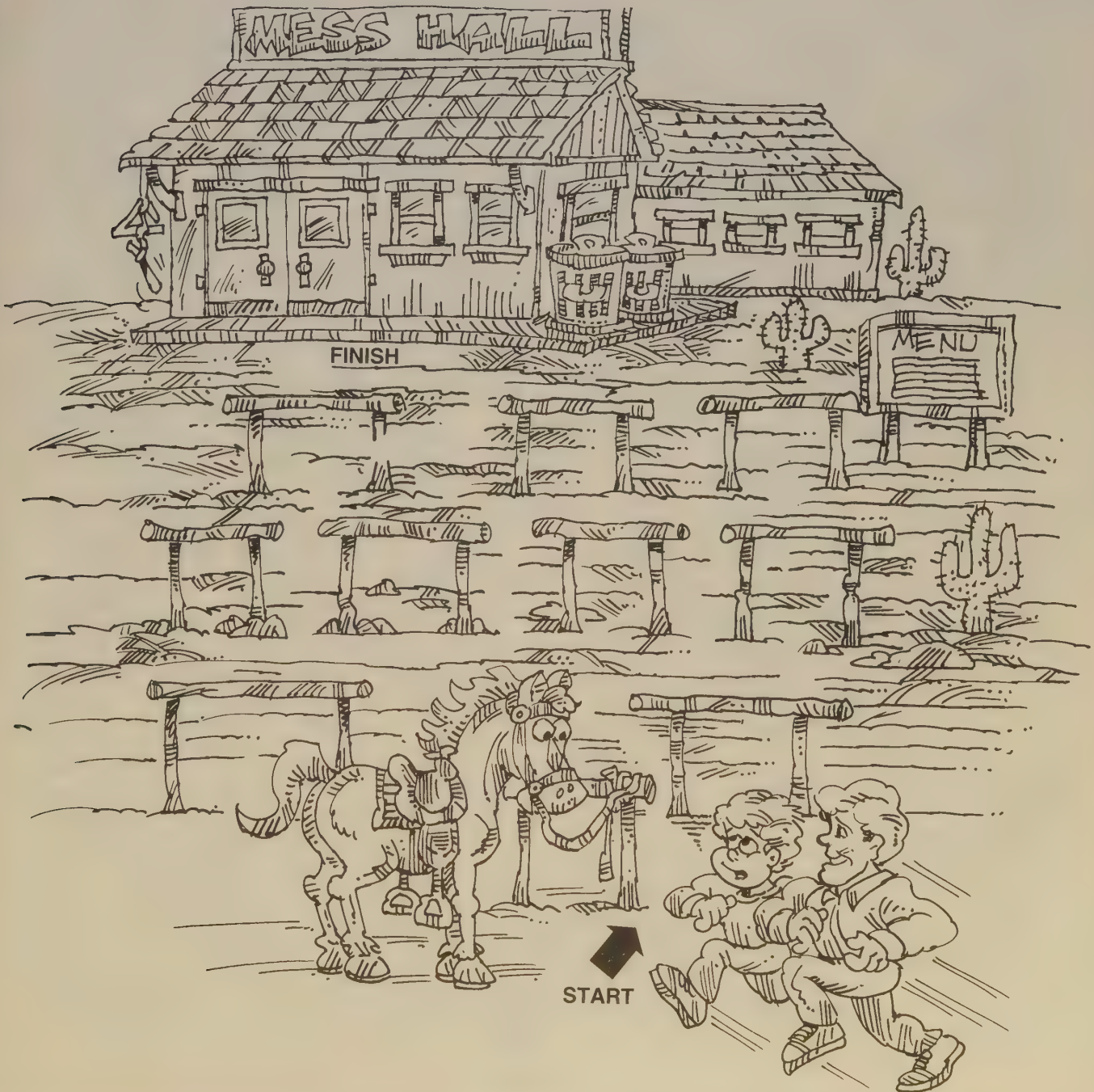
Billy didn't wait to see if the ghost was hurt. He sprinted back to his family's cabin.

"Mom! Dad! Katie!" he shouted. "I caught the ghost!"

Mr. Carson tried to calm him down. "All right, son. Now I've had just about enough of this ghost of yours. Where exactly have you caught him?"

"I hit him over the head in the basement under the kitchen. Come on, Dad. Let's hurry before he wakes up and gets away!"

Can you follow the path to get back to the mess hall?



When they got to the basement, all that was left of the ghost was a sheet.

"Looks like your ghost got away, but not before you gave him one good headache," said Billy's father, holding up the bloody sheet.

"Hey, Dad! I've got an idea that will tell us who's been haunting this place." Billy whispered his idea in his father's ear.

Help Billy and his father find what is left of the ghost.



That night everyone gobbled down Potbelly Pete's chili while Billy told his story. "And now, gentlemen," said Mr. Carson at the end of Billy's story. "If you'd all kindly remove your cowboy hats, I think our ghost will appear."

Each man shrugged and removed his hat.

"There!" shouted Billy. "Our ghost has a bump on his head!"

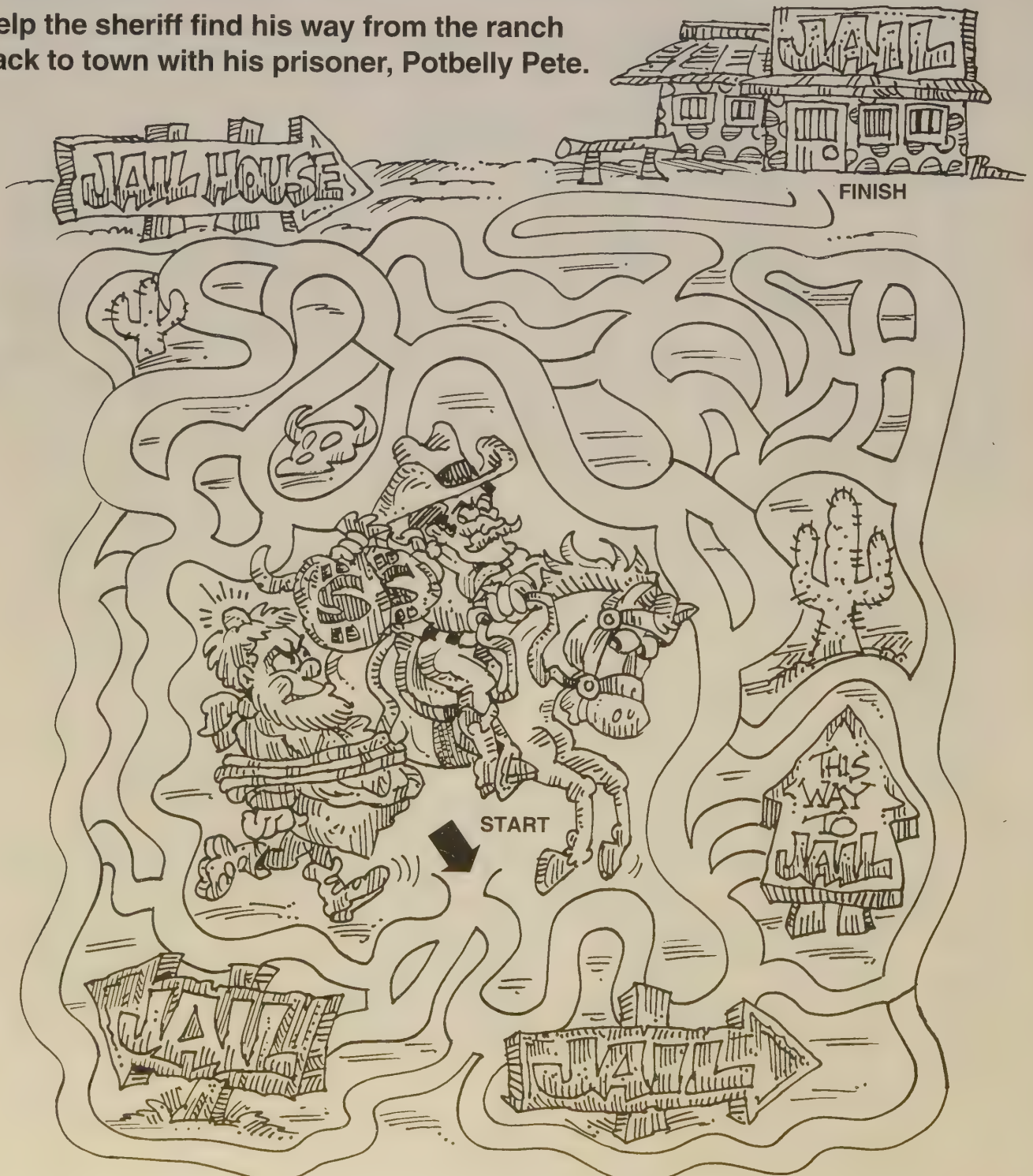
Find out who the ghost is by following the maze around the campfire.



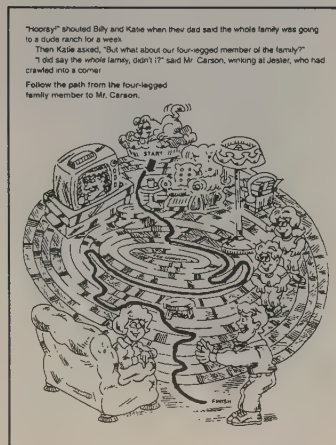
Tex called the sheriff. After he arrived and saw the money bags with Desert Bank written on them, the sheriff said, "He robbed our bank a year ago." He poked Potbelly. "Get a move on. I want to get this money back where it belongs. And put you where you belong!"

Tex and the Carsons watched them ride off, and Tex said, "That old crook wasn't a bad cook. We sure won't miss his ghost, but this place just won't be the same without his chili!"

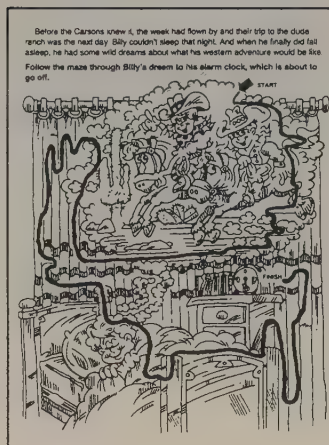
Help the sheriff find his way from the ranch back to town with his prisoner, Potbelly Pete.



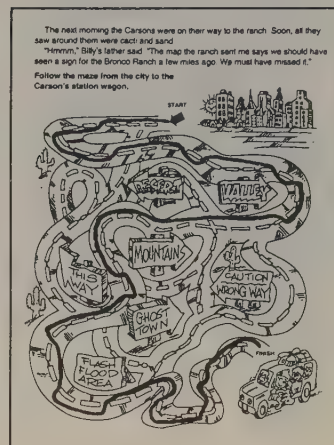
Answers



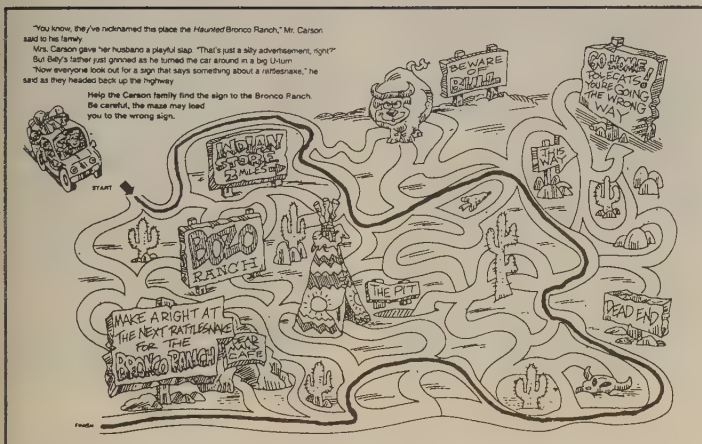
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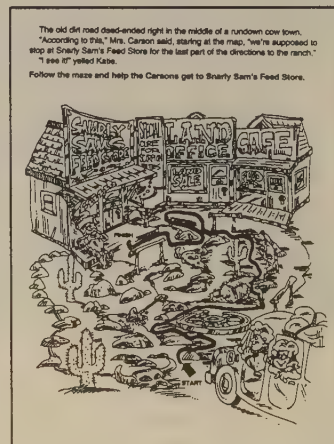
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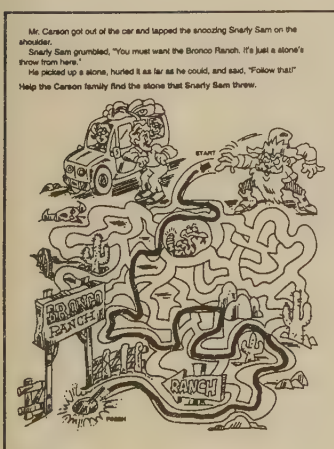
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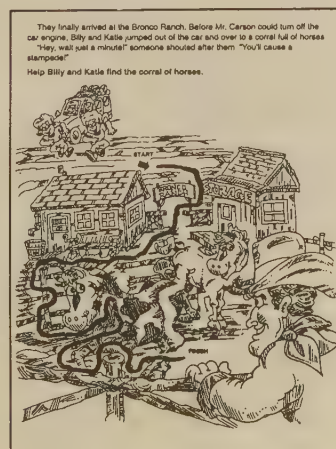
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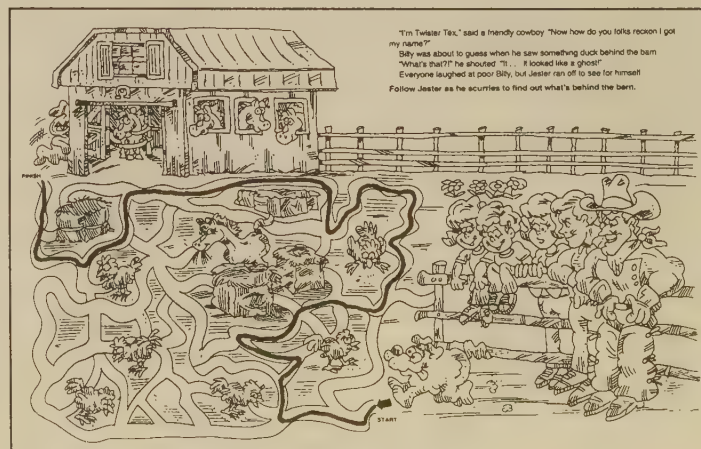
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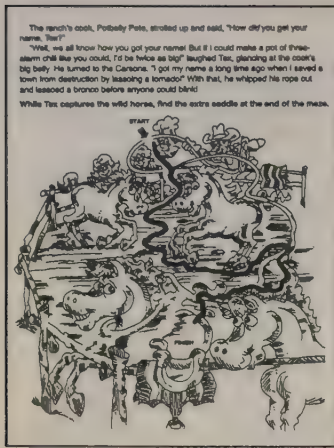
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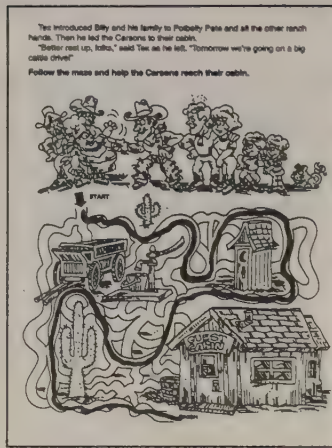
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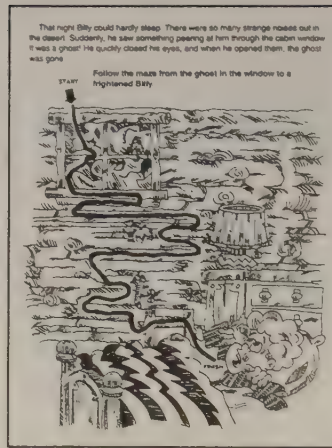
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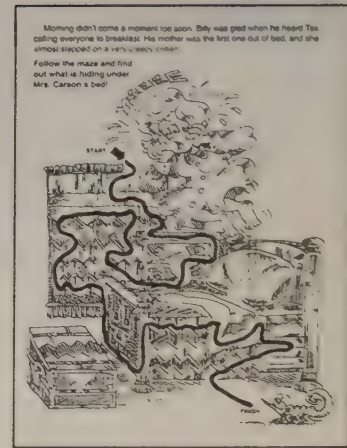
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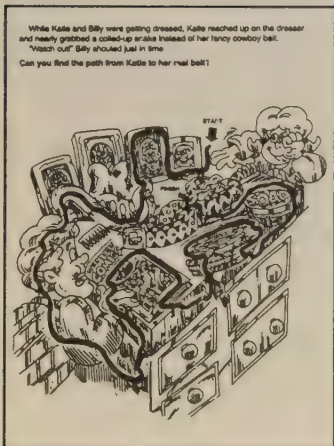
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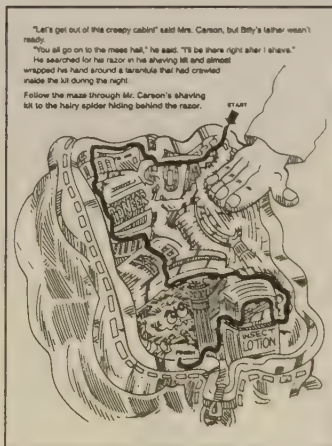
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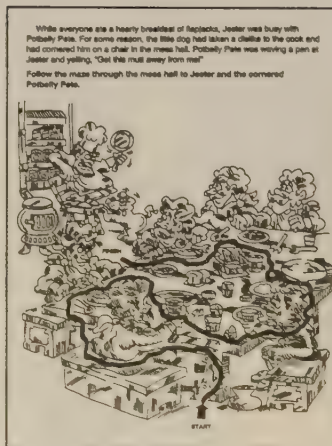
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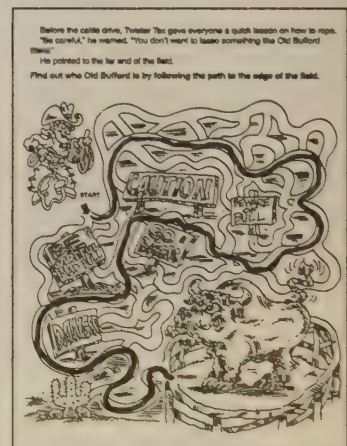
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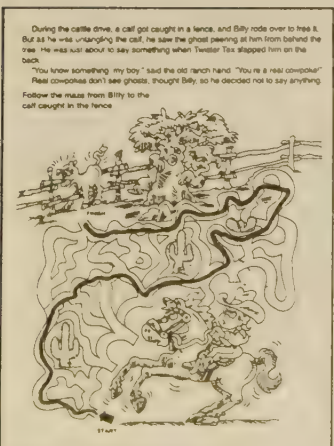
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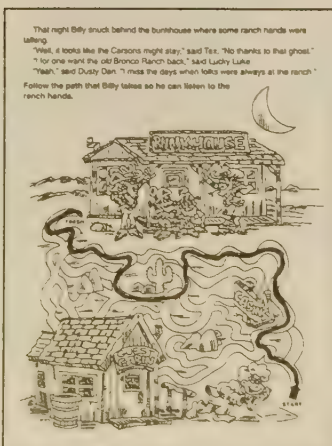
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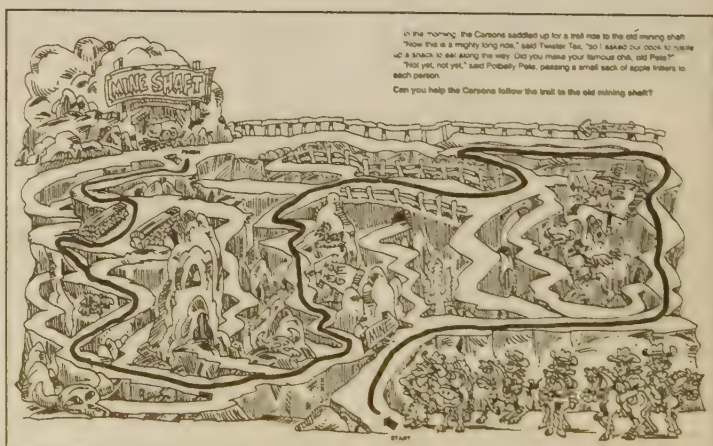
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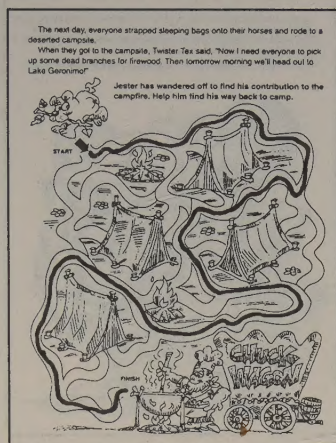
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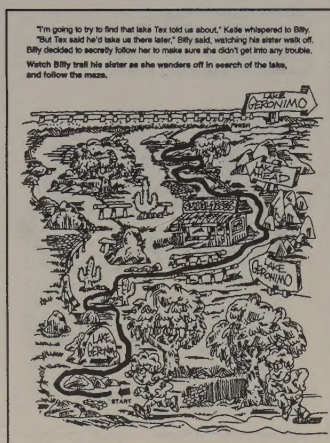
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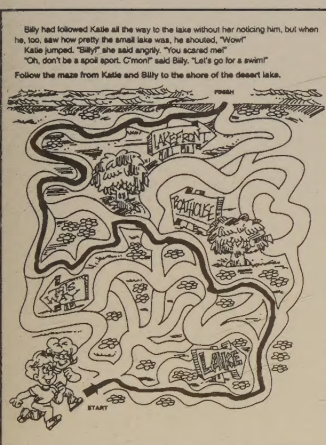
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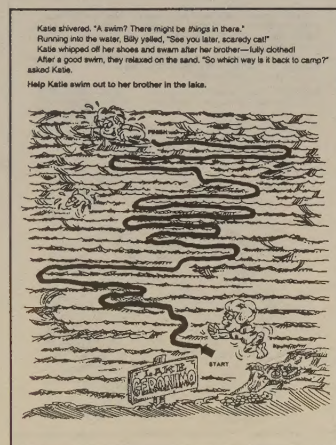
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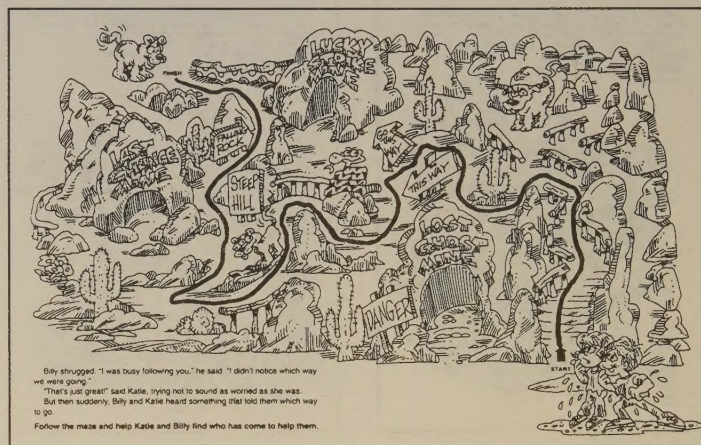
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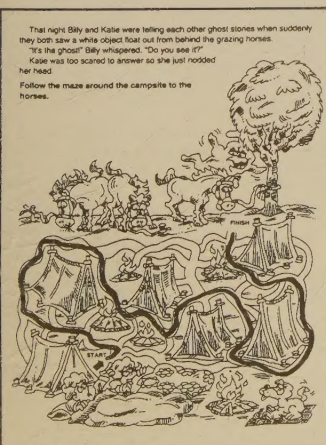
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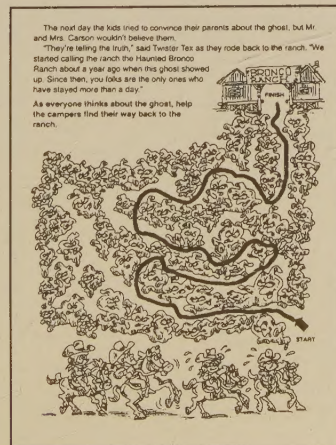
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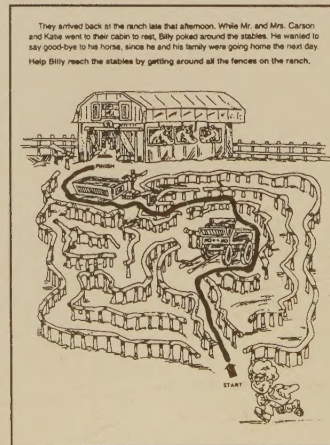
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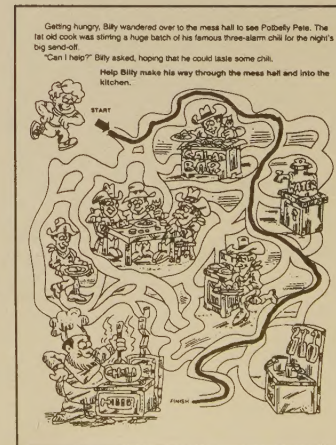
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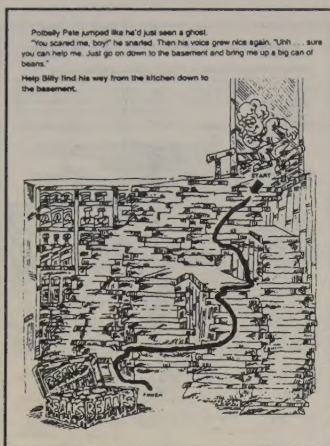
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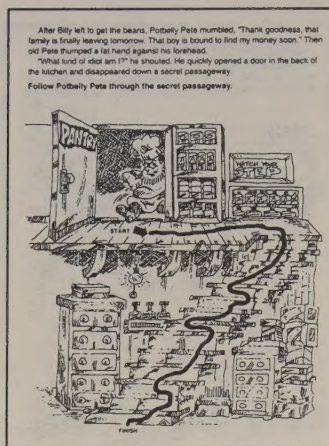
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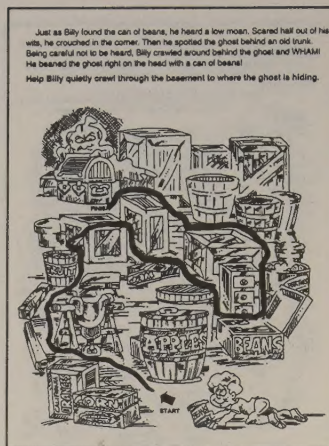
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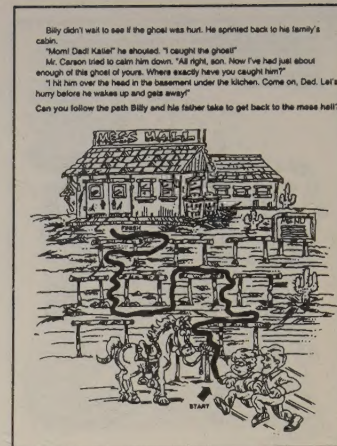
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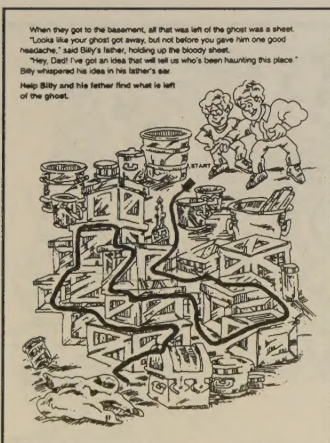
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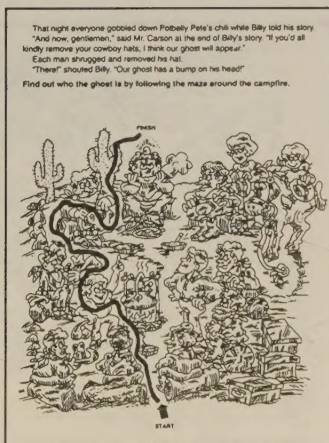
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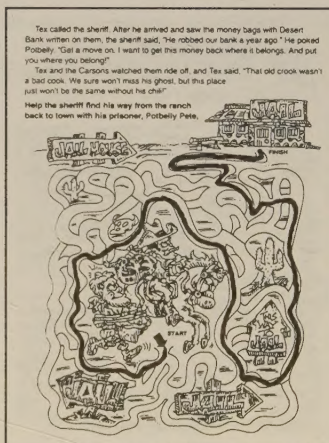
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